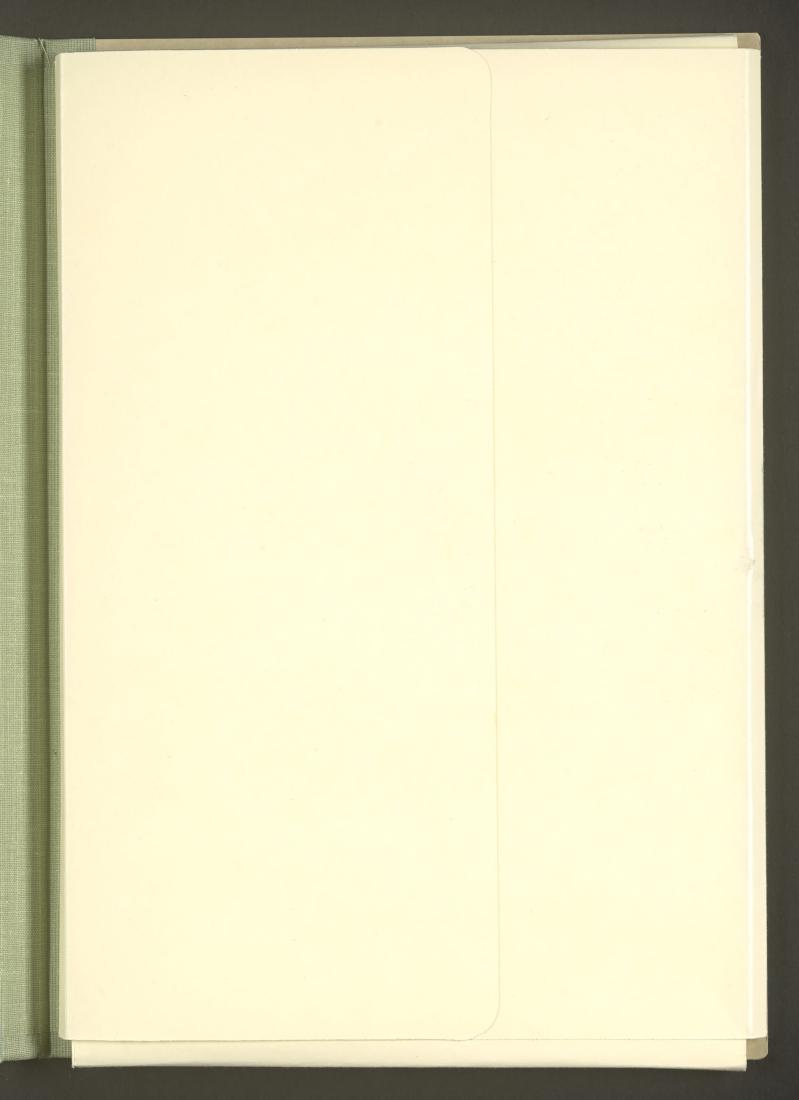
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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2001

Inside-





American History on a 10-Yen Note

-Red Henry

ISSN 0507-1194 VOLUME 37, NUMBER 1

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 37, No. 1 January-February, 2001

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send in your changes of address.

Article submissions are welcomed. Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, Editor, P.O. Box 2498. Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

Why join a coin club?

So many collectors and dealers I meet feel that "someone" will take care of this or that. Sometimes I even hear, "Why don't <u>they</u> do this" or "They do that?" Well, as I see it, "they" are you and I. If you are an active collector, you need to join and participate.

How do you know if you are an active collector? Well, my definition is that if you either buy or sell a coin or note during a twelve-month period, you are active. If you have met either of these criteria, then you are an active collector and should participate by joining.

In my volunteer positions as President of the VNA and Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic States for the American Numismatic Association, I have had the opportunity to travel to many coin clubs and coin shows and talk with collectors from around the world. I have learned that most collectors possess three qualities that are unique to our hobby. First, nearly all are highly intelligent and are far better educated than the average public. Second, all enjoy the lure of the interesting mix of art and history through coins and notes. And third, all enjoy the excitement of the hunt for interesting and pleasing pieces to add to their own collections.

So, why join a coin club? If you are human and an active collector, you will need contact with other collectors and reinforcement for your collecting. If you try sharing your joy of collecting with your family, you may find that they may not share in your enthusiasm. Imagine you have just explained how the first few Lincoln cent coins minted show the initials of the coins' designer, Victor D. Brenner, on the reverse side of the coin, and that these were later removed the same year. And how since you were a child you had always wanted one to complete your collection, and that finally, after over 30 years, you have just acquired one, and the response from your family is merely, "How much is it worth?"

Or perhaps you have made the mistake of admitting at your work place that you are a collector of coins or currency. The response is one of curious observation that you are perhaps from a strange planet, pursuing some sort of weird alien cult. Or worse, your boss thinks that if you have money to spend on such trivia, then you are either overpaid or have had your hand in the till.

The last resort is Wilson, your neighbor. He is smart, intelligent and highly educated and would understand you. Alas, he does. But unfortunately his sixteen year old is part of a punk rocker band, and the drummer has a drug problem and later overhears a conversation that the next door neighbor has lots of coins that can be easily stolen and sold for big bucks to support his drug habit. So what is a lonely collector to do?

Your very best solution is to join a coin club. Nowhere can the joys of collecting be more appreciated than there. Lectures, show and tell, exhibits

and small auctions are just a few of the activities most clubs offer. You will find that you are most welcome, and made to feel that you are not alone out there in "collector's world."

What coin club to join? I feel that there are tremendous opportunities. First, I would recommend joining your local club, the one nearest you that has regular meetings. Second, join and participate in your state organization. Thirdly, you should seriously consider joining our national organization, the American Numismatic Association. Nowhere are the interests of collectors fulfilled more than in the ANA. And lastly, if you have a keen interest in a specific series, you can also be part of a specialty club whose members are even more focused on your interests. A great example is the Early American Coppers Club, devoted to pre-Civil War American copper coins. The EAC is planning on holding its national convention in the Commonwealth in March this year. We are looking forward to the Early American Copper Club's 28th Annual National Convention, which promises to be an exciting event. It will be held in Fredericksburg, VA March 28th through April 1st, 2001, at the Holiday Inn Select. It is a great opportunity for all VNA members to learn more about our nation's early coinage from the world's foremost experts. You will also see some of the finest examples of this type of coinage in existence.

> My very best regards, COL Steven Ellsworth, President VNA

Editor's Corner

Red Henry

We begin this new year with the thankful thought that all are agreed on which millennium the calendar now represents. The year 2001 inaugurates, among other things, the FOURTH century in which the United States Mint has issued coins!

Speaking of historical matters, the State of Virginia and the U.S. Mint did a good job on the recently-released Virginia state quarters. Depiction of the three ships of the original Jamestown settlement was done very nicely, making this possibly the best state quarter reverse so far. In addition, the date 1607 is prominently featured, reminding the public that Virginia's history began many years before those famous Pilgrims arrived in Northern Virginia (now called Massachusetts).

Our thanks go out to Mike Capen this month, for his well-done reports on the Fishersville Coin Show and the Richmond Coin Club Christmas party. If you attend shows or meetings which seem of interest, write the events up and send them in! Other members of VNA will enjoy your reports and comments.

Red Henry, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, Va. 22604 e-mail: <redhenry@visuallink.com>

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From Robert W. Ruby: Latest update on Larry Gentile's condition

Hi Folks,

For those of you who know Larry Gentile, but do not correspond with him on a regular basis, I thought that you would like an update from the letter I just received from him. The letter was dated January 2, 2001:

"Thank you for your cards and your concerns, I am doing much better. Going back to the hospital on January 3rd for more blood work and then getting my 3rd Chemo treatment. I haven't had too many bad effects from the Chemo, and am hoping and praying for a speedy recovery. I have lost all the hair all over my body and I have lost almost 70 pounds. No one recognizes me any more, but I'm trying to get used to the new look. I have been truly blessed with wonderful friends from all over the country who have sent me cards and letters, especially from all my friends in Maryland. The Cancer Institute reports that 4% of all cancer patients have my kind of cancer and that it is curable. This is what I'm am praying for. I want to get back to my Young Numismtist programs again. I miss them very much. I am staying at my daughter's house in New Jersey for a while."

Larry Gentile

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 - Educational programs
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Contact: Convention Chairman Bill Eckberg
P.O. Box 25185, Alexandria, VA 22313 halfcent@mac.com

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VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant	Sponsor
Jim Dice, Silver Spring, Md.	S. Ellsworth
William Jackson, Silver Spring, Md.	S. Ellsworth

Converting to Regular to Life Membership:

Richard G. Doty, Washington, DC Arthur D. Miller, Burke, Va.

Richmond Coin Club Christmas Party

Mike Capen

The Richmond Coin Club celebrated its 714th meeting with its annual Christmas Party. The Christmas Party was held December 5th at Extra Billys restaurant in Richmond. Thirty-three members and their guests attended the Christmas Party and enjoyed an evening of numismatic fellowship. Everyone attending the Christmas party was given two wrapped gifts. Santa had some special help this year in wrapping the gifts. All the gifts were wrapped at Jim and Elsie Ruehrmund's house with the help of Jack and Sam Hepler and myself.

These gifts were made available by the generous donations of local coin dealers. The dealers making these donations were Mike Ciner and Paul Gross of Modern Coin, Wilson Harrison of Beverly Hills Jewelers, Ron Mir of Liberty Coins, Kenny Muller of the American Coin Exchange and Jerry and Ruth Schmidt of Imperial Coins. These dealers have long supported the coin hobby in the Richmond area and we appreciate their interest in our club. We were pleased that Jerry and Ruth Schmidt could attend the Christmas party as they have numerous times over the years.

Special thanks go out to Dr. Luis Wulschner of Mexico City who provided the bi-metallic gifts that were handed out to everyone.

The success of the Richmond Coin Club has always been because of its members and the support they receive from the outstanding coin dealers in the Richmond area. This holiday occasion even though joyous for us was sad as the recent passing of Steve Bennett was noted. The club made a donation to the Cancer Society in Jim's name. Jim was an active member of the Richmond Coin Club and a former president. We all will miss him and our condolences go out to his widow Yoko and family.

As the Richmond Coin Club begins the new year, we wish everyone good health and prosperity.

Fishersville Coin Show

Mike Capen

The Shenandoah Valley Coin and Stamp show was held December 2 and 3 at the Augusta Expoland near Fishersville. This twice a year show got off to a hot start despite the weather outside being chilly with snowflakes in the air. The show featured 41 dealers from around Virginia as well as from North Carolina and Pennsylvania. The show was open from 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday and 11 AM to 5 PM on Sunday and had no admission charge. By the time I arrived at 10:30 AM on Saturday, the show was in full swing. Besides a pleasant greeting upon my arrival, I was give a free Virginia state quarter at the registration desk. These quarters were being given out to the first 400 attendees by the host club, the Shenandoah Valley Coin Club. It's not often that you get paid for going to a coin show. The show also was displaying a States Quarter Exhibit on loan from the American Numismatic Association in the entrance area.

Jim Belcher was manning the Young Numismatist (YN) table and was helping further our hobby by making coin collecting an educational and fun experience for all the YNs that visited his table. Jim is a regular at other shows around the state helping promote our great hobby to the younger crowd. In an average weekend in Fishersville Jim will work with 50 YNs. Jim says "that you should not just give coins to YNs in money grabs. Those of us in the hobby should work with the YNs and share our experience and knowledge with them." This doesn't mean that Jim does not provide a lot of coins to YNs. He probably provides as many coins to YNs as any other person I know and with the coins he imparts some of his vast knowledge. Jim expressed his thanks to the dealers present at the show for donating coins for his program. Without the generosity of the dealers and others Jims job would be much harder.

After a few trips around the bourse floor, I found myself with quite a few nice items that made the 200 mile round trip worthwhile. I was impressed with the wide array of numismatic material that the dealers had brought with them for sale. All the dealers I spoke with were knowledgeable and made my shopping a pleasurable experience. I've been attending this show for a number of years and have never gone home disappointed. This is in thanks to the outstanding bourse chairmen this show has had over the years such as Jim Ryder and this year's chairman Rich Songer. This was Rich's 5th time as being chairman of this show. Rich said, "this show has been around for approximately 39 years. It started as a once a year show and is now held twice a year. This years show should draw around 1000 attendees." Based on their quick start Saturday I'm sure they got to that number. The dates for the next show are April 7 and 8, 2001. I've already marked my calendar and hope to see many of you there. You won't be disappointed you made the trip.

American History on a 10-Yen Note: Guadalcanal Island, August 12, 1942

Red Henry

America was shocked by defeat at the onset of the Second World War. In the six months following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese army and navy brought much of Asia and the Pacific under their control. Unprepared at first, the United States began fighting back, and Japanese invasion fleets were repulsed by violent naval air battles at the Coral Sea and Midway Island.

But these two victories did not win the war. The aggressors were not through yet. As the first step toward severing Australia's lifeline from the U.S., the Japanese began building an airfield in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific, on an island which few people had ever heard of—a place called Guadalcanal.

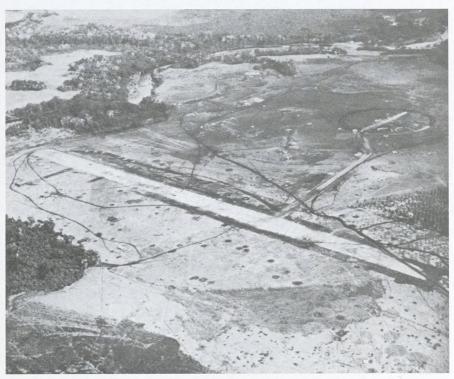
America responded to this new threat with all the force it could muster. On August 7, 1942, covered by heavy cruisers and carrier aircraft, the U.S. 1st Marine Division landed on Guadalcanal and the nearby island of Tulagi. The Marines rapidly disposed of the few Japanese troops present. In the process they captured vehicles, food, supplies, a bulldozer, and incidentally, a supply of Japanese currency originally intended for paying the construction personnel.



The reverse of the Japanese note (Pick 40-A)

The Japanese were sure to counterattack with powerful forces, so the American supply ships and aircraft carriers were withdrawn southward for safety—too hastily, some people said. Five heavy cruisers still guarded the sea approaches to the island, but the Marines enjoyed their protection for only two days. On the night of August 9 a strong force of the Japanese navy, eager for combat and well trained in night fighting, approached undetected and sank four of the five ships. The Marines were in a fix! Their aircraft carriers were gone. Their cruisers were sunk. Japanese airplanes were seen overhead, and massive enemy troop landings were expected shortly. To use an expression heard during the war, the situation was "a bit tense."

The Marine engineers worked fast, using manual labor and the captured bulldozer, to finish the half-completed runway. They hurriedly filled in large areas of mud and carved the tropical vegetation away, knowing that planes flying into the airstrip would provide both their supply line and their only



A photo of Henderson Field, taken shortly after the Marines put the runway into operation. Dark streaks across the runway are filled-in swamps and streams.

Round black spots are bomb craters.

(Navy/Morison photo)



The Navy PBY patrol bomber, introduced shortly before the war, was a slow but reliable workhorse for the U.S. and allied navies. (Walker photo)

means of air defense. The rough-and-ready airport was christened Henderson Field, after a heroic Marine pilot killed at Midway. Soon the runway was ready for use, and historian Samuel E. Morison writes that on August 12 "the first plane, an amphibious Catalina, made a trial landing."

The Catalina, the famous Navy PBY patrol plane, was a large twinengined design noted for durability but not for speed. Few Catalina missions of the war could have been more interesting to the airplane's crew than this one. To begin with, they were flying into a war zone, where fast Japanese Zeros might appear at any time and shoot them down. Along with that, they were coming into an island inhabited by (justifiably) trigger-happy defenders, to test whether the surface of the new runway would bear the weight of their aircraft when it landed! Things must have been "a bit tense" on the plane, too.

War correspondent Richard Tregaskis was in a Navy boat offshore on the morning of August 12, when the Catalina came in to land. He wrote:

"Gunner Banta took the field glasses and focused them nervously. 'It's a plane,' he shouted. And our machine guns swung around and angled toward the sector of the sky where he had been looking...at last we could see the distinct outline of a seaplane hull, the high wing and twin motor nacelles of a P-boat. 'It's ours,' said Gunner Banta. And we began to breathe freely again. The pretty flying boat...then swung in a slow curve toward the shore of Guadalcanal."

The slow-but-sure Catalina landed safely, and its crew began getting acquainted with the Marines at the airfield. This was the very first time in the war that an American plane had landed on territory recovered from the Japanese, and the occasion was memorialized on a captured 10-yen note. The inscription is now somewhat faded, but as well as I can tell, this is what one of the pilots wrote on the back of the note:

Souvenier of First
American or Allied
Airplane to land
on previously
occupied Japanese
territory, Guadalcanal
Island, Solomon
Group, Aug. 12 1942
PBY HO504J
W. Schauer
CHP USN
2nd Pilot

The note was folded up small to keep in someone's wallet during the war. Where it spent the next half century, no one can say. About a year ago, a member of the local coin club brought in some foreign notes



to sell at a meeting, and this item was among them. He had not noticed the inscription on the faded, wrinkled note. I can't say what impulse made me pick up the note and turn it over, but as a former military pilot, I was immediately struck by its significance. This inscribed note is a compelling document from a brave episode in American history.

The Japanese had been surprised when the Americans landed, but they promptly counter-landed thousands of troops to contest the Marines' hold on the island. For six months, Henderson Field was the most famous and important airport in the world, as the Japanese bombarded it from the sea and air and tried to take the runway with fanatical ground assaults. Innumerable supply and combat missions were flown in and out of the airfield, pausing only while the runway was repaired from hits by enemy bombs and shells.

The fighting was hard, but the Marines did not yield. In early February of 1943, the Japanese evacuated the battered remnants of their forces from the island, and from then on they made no more conquests. Guadalcanal was just the first of many Pacific islands to be captured by the Americans as they island-hopped their way to Tokyo. Japanese aggression was finished, and America was on the way back.

Sources:

Morison, Samuel E., *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II, Vol. 5*, Little, Brown, & Co., Boston, 1954.

Tregaskis, Richard, Guadalcanal Diary, Random House, New York, 1943.

Walker, John B., *A Guide to Airplanes of the U.S.A.*, Whitman Pub. Co., Racine, Wis., 1943.

_____, Fighting on Guadalcanal, U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943.

Thanks to Daryl Spelbring of "Banknotes of the World", Vienna, Virginia, for his assistance in verifying the Japanese note.

One version of this article has appeared in Bank Note Reporter.

Red Henry began collecting in 1958. His articles have appeared in several coin publications. He is presently editor of *The Virginia Numismatist*, and he also publishes the *Early-Date Report*, an extensive national census of large cent collections.



The obverse of the Japanese note (Pick 40-A)

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State Quarters a Refreshing Change

Some good news is that the latest state quarters have been released in sufficient numbers to overcome demand by collectors and hoarders, with the result that the quarters are actually circulating!

Now it is common to find such things as New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Virginia quarters in our pocket change: a welcome sight, after 68 years of the admittedly handsome, but now somewhat tired, Washington quarter design. But let's not stop there. Wouldn't it be good to vary the images on our dimes, nickels, and cents as well, now that those designs are 55, 63, and 92 years old, respectively?

Few other countries of the world tolerate such static coin designs as ours. As times and human cultures change, it's natural for the coin designs to change too. Consider our one-cent coin. Its obverse has retained the same design for 92 years! Would Americans of 1950 have wanted the same cent design as was made 92 years before, in 1858? Of course not! Why should we hobble ourselves asthetically with obsolete designs? American culture is not less creative today than it was 100 and 200 years ago!

Enjoy the state quarters. They're a sign that American coins don't always have to stay the same. It's great to find interesting money in our pockets!

Andy Skrabalak

Alynne Skrabalak

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RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

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SHOW CALENDAR 2001

Jan. 19-21, Claymont, Del. Wilmington Coin Club Annual Show Brandywine Terrace, 3416 Philadelphia Pike. (302)798-0118

Jan. 27-28, Vienna, Va.

Northern VA Coin Club Show
Community Center, 120 Cherry Street. (703)532-6640

Feb. 3, Norfolk, Va.Coin Show VFW, 4809 Bartee St. (757)499-8416

Feb. 4, Towson, Md.BANC Coin Show Holiday Inn, Exit 29 off Beltway

Feb. 9-11, Charlotte, NCCharlotte Coin Club 31st Annual Show Merchandise Mart, 800 Briar Creek Rd. (803)547-7935

March 15-18, Baltimore, Md.

Suburban Washington-Baltimore
Coin and Currency Convention
Baltimore Convention Center, Halls A & B

Mar. 28-Apr. 1, Fredericksburg, Va. Early American Coppers Convention Holiday Inn Select, 2801 Plank Road

April 21-22, Virginia Beach, Va. Tidewater Coin Club Spring Show Pembroke Hall, 4815 Virginia Beach Blvd. (757)6271095

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

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THE MONEY \$TORE

WANTED: VA store tokens from Madison, Culpeper and Orange counties for my personal collection. Please e-mailme (Dave Scott) at janedave@erols.com, or call 540.547.2675 with price, condition, and description.

WANTED: North Carolina Trade tokens. Please write with description and price. Mike Capen, P.O. Box 1947, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

WANTED: Punch tags. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

WOODEN MEDALS WANTED. 1893 Fisheries building, 1976 Bicentennial. Also unusual kinds. Describe, price. Arlie Slabaugh, 1025 Crozer Lane, Springfield, PA 19064.

WANTED: Your Civil War, Hard Times, Merchant, or Good For token Collection, also National Banknotes. Will Travel to purchase major collections. Stuart Jones, P.O. Box 118, Belair, MD 21014, ph. (410) 893-9783

WANTED: Stocks, Bonds & fancy old letterheads you don't know what to do with. Send photocopy or sample for offer. Will answer all requests. Bob Schell, 6804 Jeremiah Ct., Fairfax, VA 22039.

FOR SALE: My list for your SASE. Confederate/ 1862 Va/ WVa. Obsolete/ U.S./ Tokens / MPC / British World / Books. C.D. Damron, Rt. 4, Box 63K, St. Albans, WV 25177, ph. (304)768-6246

WANTED: Contemporary (to the Civil War) counterfeit Confederate notes for my personal collection. Please describe and price. Ned Lea, 8704 Kings Mill Place, Raleigh, NC 27615

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WANTED on signers of Va. colonial, other colonial, and Continental currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have. David Consolvo, P.O. Box 153, Covesville, VA 22931, (804) 293-4371

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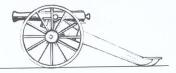
WANTED: United Daughters of the Confederacy medals awarded to military veterans. These bronze crosses cover the Civil War through Desert Storm. Charles Pfeiffer, 1401 Druid Rd., Maitland, FL 32751, (407) 644-0085

WANTED: ELKS-Both BPOE & IBPOEW tokens. Price & describe in 1st letter. J.M. Boswell, P.O. Box 428, Gambrills, MD 21054-0428

WANTED: All foreign paper money, scrip & notgeld + US MPC & CSA notes. Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183, (703) 938-7267

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 2001







VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

SPRING, 2001

Inside-



Pennies from Heaven

-Jerry L. Morgan

Foreign Coins Circulating in Virginia and Other Colonies

—Hans Land

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The Virginia Numismatic Association has on file the names and addresses of its advertisers. Any complaints or requests for information regarding advertisers should be referred to The Virginia Numismatic Association, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604. The right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, and to decline any payment in advance is specifically reserved.

Signed letters to the Editor are invited from VNA members. Please include your name and address. Letters will be printed if space permits.

THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 37, No. 2 Spring, 2001

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published six times per year. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send in your changes of address.

Article submissions are welcomed. Send mail relating to the magazine to Red Henry, Editor, P.O. Box 2498, Winchester, VA 22604.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

What a coin club should be.

We have just finished hosting the Early American Copper Society's National convention in Fredericksburg. What a great show everyone had! It is of no surprise that one of our VNA member clubs, The Rappahannock or "Racketeers" as they call themselves, rose to the occasion.

There were lectures on very interesting subjects the entire five days. There were great receptions on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

On Thursday, there was a "happening". At a happening, a selected coin is featured, and all those in the club show up with an example, if they have one. Some of the Half Cents, Large Cents and Colonials were very elusive. Needless to say, when they all came out of the woodwork, they were truly amazing. There were examples in most every grade, and some were the finest known.

The bourse opened on Friday and did not close till 3 pm on Sunday. On Saturday Night was the sale that realized nearly \$400,000 in Early American Coppers.

Now what does this entire recount of the convention have to do with the Rappahannock Area Coin Club?

Without their help, it simply would not happen. From the very beginning nearly a year ago, to the opening on Wednesday morning till Sunday night, that little club ran the registration and helped everyone find their way. They are the reason so many people felt so welcome to Virginia. They are all to be commended for a job well done. It all came down to the praise that EAC President March Wells gave them in the Annual Meeting on Sunday morning: "They are what a coin club ought to be".

My thanks go to all those who helped put on a great convention, and especially the "Racketeers".

My very best regards,

COL Steven Ellsworth, President, VNA

Editor's Corner

Red Henry

The spring coin show season is really heating up, as shown by our Show Calendar on page 19. We urge you to attend one or more nearby shows. You'll find great chances to shop for competitively-priced coins and to meet the dealers and your fellow collectors. The shows are going on, the coin market is active, and the material is out there—go and get it!

A special numismatic event has gone off most successfully, namely the Early American Coppers annual convention in Fredericksburg. The event was open to all, and nearly 400 members and guests attended between March 28 and April 1st. Many VNA members were among the convention's organizers and attendees, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Rappahannock Area Coin Club contributed to the event's success by keeping the registration table in operation during the entire convention.

A Personal Appeal: We Need a New Volunteer!

On a personal note, the time has come for me to announce that after the next issue (Summer 2001), I'll be unable to continue editing *The Virginia Numismatist*. We need a volunteer for this position! Can you help us?

As editor, your functions would include typical magazine functions such as writing, proofreading, and magazine layout. You should plan on producing four issues per year. The job will usually require a few days' spare time for each issue. You should preferably have a good computer layout program such as PageMaker or Quark Xpress, and be able to supply each magazine issue to the printer on zipdisk or CD.

I will be glad to provide all the help and guidance I can. I will provide you the computer fonts and ad graphics if you want them, and will even provide the entire PageMaker 6.5 publication file for the current issue, if you can use it.

I've greatly enjoyed my time as *TVN* editor. The personal contacts I've made and the publishing techniques I've learned have made it all very worthwhile. My current personal situation simply doesn't allow the extra time and energy which the job deserves, especially during the fall and winter, when my family and business demand most of my attention. I am certain that there are VNA members out there who can do a great job! If interested, please contact Col. Steve Ellsworth, or e-mail me at the address below.

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From the Membership Chairman

Our annual membership renewal campaign is progressing very well. The first week of January we mailed 320 renewal letters to those members who owed dues for calendar year 2001. As of February 22, 195 members have renewed. More than 43 members renewed for three years and six regular members have converted to life membership.

For those who have not responded to the January letter, please forward your dues as soon as possible. It saves the Association considerable expense and your membership chairman a lot of time if you respond promptly. Consider renewing for three years and save money. Those who do not respond prior to the first of April will be dropped from membership.

—Daryl Spelbring



Virginia Numismatic Association Officers and Directors

President (Director): Steven K. Ellsworth PO Box 498, Clifton, VA 20124

(703) 802-0252 email: Butternut@gslink.com

1st Vice-president: Clay Everhart PO Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190

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Secretary: Daryl C. Spelbring PO Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183 (703) 938-7267 email: Hottub4@aol.com

Treasurer (Director): Claire Wall PO Box 1481, Rockville, MD 20849-1481 (301) 881-4990

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant

Sponsor

Tom Oristian, Reston, Va.

S. Ellsworth

Converting from Regular to Life Membership:

James M. Keeling, Stafford, Va. P.D. Kelchner, Winchester, Va. Jerry L. Morgan, St. Louis, Mo. K.V. Seremetis, Morgantown, WVa.

The Virginia Numismatist to Become Quarterly

At the suggestion and with the approval of the VNA President and several members of the board, we plan to reduce the publication schedule of *The Virginia Numismatist* from six issues per year to four. This change will take effect immediately, and the month-long delay in publishing this issue is because of the change in schedule.

The new quarterly publication schedule will allow for Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall issues, and we hope to publish just as many articles and other information in four issues as we formerly did in six.

The Virginia Numismatist traditionally stands apart from other regional journals in the quality of the numismatic articles published in every issue. Numismatic knowledge and research by VNA members are very impressive in a national context. Your original articles and other input are sincerely solicited, for we plan to continue publishing many high-quality pieces from VNA members each year.

We also need to find a new TVN Editor within the next three months. See the "Personal Appeal" on page 3 for more details. The VNA needs you!

Please direct questions and comments to Col. Steve Ellsworth, VNA President, or Red Henry, Editor, *The Virginia Numismatist*.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN!

Jerry L. Morgan

Are you superstitious? I have never been, but may have to change my thinking after this experience. It was just another day in the coin business, but for the rest of the world it was a special Friday. Yes, Friday the 13th, a great day for you "Black Cat collectors" and Exorcism experts. As with most situations, it all started with a phone call, the rest is still a little "hazy".

The request came early that day, and it was a simple one, "Could you pick-up some pennies we recently bought?" I was two hundred and fifty miles from home when the call came and the pennies were on the way home, so it made sense to say "Sure". That would later turn out to be a mistake but little did I know that at the time.

The "Penny Chalet" was just that! This place was gorgeous, located on a huge lake it sat high on a hill with a coiffured walkway to the huge (well-equipped) boathouse. My meeting seemed to get off to a wrong start when I commented to the owner, "What a beautiful "Cigar Boat", he looked at me and said "I bet you're lived in Missouri your whole life" (Strike One). Thinking, I had established some real "Rapport", I was now ready to "Take care of business".

"Take me to your pennies" I quipped! He must not have been a sci-fi kind of guy, he was not amused, (Strike Two). He just asked me to back into his garage, which was absolutely no problem since it was made to house a large truck. The ceiling was twelve feet high with a huge garage door, the cavernous space swallowed my rented Ford Windstar, it was now 8PM, and I was ready for anything, until I saw the pennies!

As I got out of the Windstar van, I noticed a separate room where many buckets where stacked up. Can you guess what was in the buckets? Please try, I'll give you one clue, they were copper in color! Yes, there were so many pennies in this room, some rolled, some loose, buckets after buckets! The loading went real well, if you where a mule from the "Twenty Mule Borax Team"! It only took me two and a half-hour to completely fill the van. Oh yes, he wanted to help but couldn't, doctors orders you know. At this time I had no idea how many pennies I had, but the rear bumper was nearly touching the ground! "If I only take it easy", "If I only take it easy", my mantra was consistent, most lies are!

Screech, the muffler was scraping the curb, "But I'm moving," I thought as I drove away at 11PM. 10 miles, 20 miles, 30 miles more, this was like the "Banana Boat" song by Harry Bellafonte (I think), "Daylight comes and I want

to go home". Well at 43 miles driven "Strike Three" happens, the rear drivers side tire blows out, shreds and I'm at the side of the road. Thank-you Virginia Numismatic Association President, Col. Steven K. Ellsworth for your security tips, because I did have my cell phone with me. At times like this, with a car full of pennies, it was still a helpless feeling. Do you want people to stop or not? No one did, as I opted to keep my headlights fully on and appear to be temporarily stopped and just using the phone, which I certainly was.

A Missouri State Highway patrolman finally pulled in behind me and as he walked up we had an unforgettable conversation. "What in the world have you got in that van?" He amusingly said, in retrospect, I really must not look like a drug dealer, because I thought this scenario looked pretty suspicious. When I answered by stating, "Pennies, sir", he turned around and headed for the patrol car. I figured he was going to get his Breathalyzer, as I was ready for my first field sobriety test, and I was proud to say I was ready to get my first "A" ever on a test. It was disappointing when he came back with nothing more than a flashlight and stated he was a coin collector and wanted to see what a van full of pennies looked like. He really got an "Eyeful", he "Thanked-me" for the experience as he got into his car to drive off as the rental car tow truck pulled up to my van. That's when the "Fun" really began.

"I'm sorry sir, I don't think the spare will work" said Rufas, the tow truck driver. Convinced this scene was being discreetly filmed for some upcoming TV show, I figured I must change my style, because I really must have come across to Rufas to be much, much dumber than I really am. You are correct sir! I said, mimicking Ed McMahon, as he responded to Karnak, on the old Tonight Show. What do you suggest? I stated, not having an answer. "Let's see if one of the guy's wants to take you to St. Louis tonight," he said. While I didn't know for sure what he meant at the time, just as a huge truck pulled up, the "Plan started to come together"

This large truck was a "Piggyback" tow truck and proceeded to pull my Windstar right onto its platform. It was refreshing to know I was going home, and not even going to have to drive. I was wrong again, how ironic as I looked at my watch, it was five minutes to midnight. This was surly a horror movie where the beast wouldn't die. However, in most good horror movies there is always some terrifying parts, and mine was just beginning, as the sound of the truck door closed for the ride back to St. Louis.

Did you ever have a boil? this was one of the more intelligent questions from the new driver, Lucky. Yes, while not really living up to his namesake, this man had led an interesting life. Furthermore, he let me know every aspect of his life for the next three hours. Yes, from Kindergarten, to almost getting out of high school, it was a Shakespearean play, half farce and half tragedy.

Although I doubt his biography was going to win a TONY award I treated him with the utmost respect as he helped me unload the van into my garage. Subsequently, we towed the now empty car over to the van rental location. In spite of the fact that the tow job cost me \$300, was I ever glad to get that van back! That is when my luck really improved.

Mr. Morgan, "Why didn't we change your tire?" the courteous agent stated from the rental company early the next morning. Not wanting to go into details, I said "It's a long story, and I'm not unhappy!" She said for being such a good customer, and being treated so poorly, she was authorized to give me one free car rental <u>for a full week!</u> Now for the even better part! What to do with the pennies?

Many of you know Virg Marshall from Nebraska, who has a great reputation among the industry as a penny specialist. Virg agreed to buy the unspecified amount of pennies at the Kansas City show. I told him I didn't know how many pennies I had, but he indicated it would not be a problem since he had a very heavy-duty pick-up truck. When we finally met we started loading up his truck and filled his truck with over 6000+ rolls of pennies. That folks is a lot of pennies! I still had 250 rolls that we could not get into Virg's truck. What to do? Norm Bowers, owner of Eagle Coins, was my show partner said, "Maybe it would be best to take them back to the shop". I told Norm, "That was not an option, since I was not going to have anymore to do with these Pennies"! Enter another character, in this growing cast, ANA Governor Tom Hallenbeck, who was working with the club's youth raising funds. Then a great idea hit me!

Why not take the 250 rolls of pennies and buy chances to win a \$10 Gold piece? Would the club take the pennies? Not only did they take the pennies for \$125, (125 chances) they then offered the pennies for sale at \$1.00 per roll. In essence, the youth with the guidance of Governor Hallenbeck, was raising \$250 towards their program! Everyone was happy! Then guess what?

As the show closed, and the drawing was held, the very last number drawn for the \$10 Gold piece was mine. Well it really belonged the company, but what "Sweet victory"! Everybody came out ahead in "The Pennies from Heaven" saga.

Submitted by Jerry L. Morgan, Scotsman Coin

Jerry Morgan is a professional numismatist with over 20 years experience. He is the current President of The Missouri Numismatic Society, and the newest Life member of The Virginia Numismatic Association.

Andy Skrabalak

Alynne Skrabalak

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Hans Land

Many a "Spanish" silver dollar, the piece of eight (reales), found its way into the colonies — principally through trade with the West Indies. They were welcomed: English coins were scarce because of British restrictive policies, and barter was proving cumbersome and a barrier to the increasing trade. As early as 1645, the legislature of Virginia recognized the need for specie and made the Spanish silver dollar legal tender in the colony. It fixed its value at six shillings.

Ten years later, it reduced the value from six to five shillings, with unfore-seen and presumably quite unintended consequences. The shortage of coin was, after all, not limited to Virginia but existed just as much in the sister colonies. So, a colony in need of coin would raise the value of the piece of eight with the result that those coins flowed to it. To end the drain, the Virginia legislature then wished to return to the earlier valuation of six to the shilling but ran into Lord Culpeper's objection that the matter was the king's – and therefore Lord Culpeper's – prerogative. Culpeper then bought Spanish dollars at the low valuation of five shillings, subsequently raised the rate to six shillings and thus made a quick 20% on all dollars he had bought at 5 shillings.

The Spanish dollar was the most common but not the only foreign coin circulating in Virginia and the sister colonies. Others were gold coins and included the johannes, popularly called joe, minted in Portugal and its possession Brazil, the escudo minted in Spain and its colonies, particularly Mexico, some English guineas and the French Louis d'or, popularly called French guinea. You will remember those coins also from Robert L. Stevenson's Treasure Island...

Perhaps surprisingly, these foreign coins continued in usage in the United States even long after the U.S. Mint was established in 1792. For one, the mint was slow in getting into production. Perhaps even more importantly, its coins reflected the exact value of their gold and silver content. In short, an American Eagle of \$ 10 contained exactly ten Dollars' worth of gold – no deduction being made for seigniorage. In effect, the U.S. Government certified that a \$ 10 gold coin contained exactly \$ 10 dollars' worth of gold. That was an even better guarantee than, say, a Swiss bank selling a gold bar with its certificate or seal affirming its stated value. At least, foreigners thought so with the result that most of the U.S. coinage was exported.

The continuing shortage of specie led the U.S. Congress to pass successive Legal Tender Acts, making the foreign coins referred to above legal tender in the U.S. Like so many governmental measures intended to be quite temporary, the Legal Tender Acts were extended several times and did not expire until 1857 – a mere four years before the outbreak of the War between the States...

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10th Edition of "Confederate States Paper Money" Now Available



Iola, Wis. – February 5, 2001 — The numismatic industry bible is back and better than ever. In "Confederate States Paper Money: 10th Edition," author Arlie R. Slabaugh leads the reader through the Civil War by following the trail of paper currency that was used during the conflict.

For more than 40 years, this book has been a primary source of data on Confederate currency and the 10th edition continues in this tradition. Readers will find the most comprehensive and up-to-date information available to collectors. With more than 300 photographs, six levels of grading, pricing information and in-depth information on engravers and printers, collectors will learn volumes about their collections.

Several exclusive photos highlight this new edition, as well as data on uncut sheets, advertising notes, errors and bogus and enigmatical issues. The guide also boasts the most complete coverage of Upham and other facsimile notes, which is sure to delight all collectors.

Slabaugh has also included the fascinating history of the Confederate states notes from the succession of South Carolina in 1860 through the Reconstruction period, accompanied by extensive and accurate historical data to further educate the collector. Additionally, readers will appreciate the exciting section on the financial history of paper money.

ANA News

Ellsworth
Tosses Coin
in
Board of
Governors
Race



March 26, 2001—With a coin in every pocket...preferably copper.... Colonel Steven Ellsworth announces his campaign platform for candidacy in the Board of Governors Race of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), the premier coin collecting association in the United States.

Known to friends and collectors as "The Colonel," Ellsworth retired from the US Army with over 32 years of service. Since his military retirement, Ellsworth has been a full-time coin dealer and collector of Early American Copper Coins under the business name—Butternut.

"My company's name came as a suggestion from my southern bride, Sandra Gale. Butternut was the color of the Confederate uniforms during the barbarian invasion of the War of Northern Aggression. I-wasn't allowed to use the name until after we married. I felt fortunate to be able to use it as well as being allowed to keep my own last name, Ellsworth", laughingly said Ellsworth. Butternut is also used in describing choice Early American Cents, added Ellsworth.

When asked about his volunteer contributions if elected to the Board, Ellsworth stated he wanted to focus some of his leadership efforts supporting the education and membership programs, which ANA currently has in place, with particular interest on programs directed at young numismatists, K through 12. Another goal would be to contribute to the expansion efforts for the new museum by helping to raise funds and awareness for the renovation project, also currently underway in Colorado Springs, continued Ellsworth.

Colonel Ellsworth has previously served as an ANA District Delegate, and currently serves as the Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic States. As well, he is a member of the ANA membership and finance committees and is president of the Virginia Numismatic Association, also serving as its bourse chairman for the past three years. He has lectured at the ANA Summer Seminars in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and has written numerous topics concerning personal and property security for collectors and dealers, which have been published in over 15-state and -national journals. Ellsworth has extensive educational credentials in business and management that is coupled with decades of hands-on work experience; he also serves as a consultant to The Red Book, and the United States Secret Service.

ANA News (Continued)

ANA Museum Aids History Channel in Program about Counterfeiting

American Numismatic Association (ANA) Museum Curator Robert W. Hoge, Executive Director Edward C. Rochette and ANA Authenticator Brian A. Silliman, along with specimens from the ANA Money Museum, contributed to the production of a program on counterfeit coins and paper money being prepared for the History Channel.

Dan Golden of Towers Productions, based in Chicago, spent a day at the ANA in December taping interviews and shooting specimens of genuine and counterfeit coins that are among the extensive holdings in the Association's museum. He expects the two-hour program will air sometime this spring.

From the British Royal Mint



The British Royal Mint announces the 2001 United Kingdom Proof Set, featuring a magnificent five-pound commemorative crown as the centerpiece of this ten-coin collection. Total authorized mintage is 100,000 sets, and four different styles of packaging are available. Orders and inquiries: The British Royal Mint, Cheyanne, WY 82008-0031.

VNA MEMBER CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria. For information contact Alynne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets on last Tuesday, at 6:30 pm to eat and 7:30 for meeting and auction, at Aunt Sarah's Pancake House, 1615 Emmet St. N, Charlottesville, Va. For information: Doug Seal P.O. Box 598 Crozet, VA. 22932.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Mar.28-Apr. 1 in Fredericksburg, Va. Club information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

LYNCHBURG COIN CLUB. Meets at 7 pm on 3rd Monday at Scarlett's Gallery, 1026 Main St. (Downtown), Lynchburg, VA. For information contact Ron Waddell, PO Box 840, Forest, VA 24551.

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursday at 6:30 for dinner and 7:30 meeting, Old Country Buffet, 576 Branchlands Blvd., Charlottesville. Information: Monticello Coin Club, 301 East Market St, Charlottesville, VA. 22902.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Tony Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.



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SHOW CALENDAR 2001

April 21-22, Virginia Beach, Va.

Tidewater Coin Club Spring Show

Pembroke Hall, 4815 Virginia Beach Blvd. (757)6271095

Annapolis Colonial Coin Club Show. April 21, Annapolis, Md. West Annapolis Fire Station, 121 Jenifer Rd. (410)379-5646, ceocoins@starpower.net **NVCC Coin Show** May 5-6, Salem, Va. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., 703-255-6360 May 5-6, Vienna, Va. Hershey Coin Club Show Penna. National Guard Armory, 1720 E. Caracas Ave., 838-8730 Hershey Coin Club Show May 5-6, Hershey, Pa. Penna. National Guard Armory, 1720 E. Caracas Ave., 838-8730 May 12, Charlottesville, Va. Coin Show VFW Post, 1170 River Road, Charlottesville (804)823-8096 41st Annual Coin Show May 19-20, Chambersburg, Pa. Quality Inn @ I-81 Exit 5, Wayne Ave., Chambersburg. BANC Coin Show June 10, Towson, MD Holiday Inn. 1100 Cromwell Br. Rd. (410)284-8382, www.coinshows.com/towson_banc.html Atlantic Rarities Coin Expo June 15-17, Baltimore, Md. Baltimore Convention Center, Hall A. www.coinshows.com/baltimore_msna.html Coin Show July 14-15, Roanoke, Va. Roanoke Civie Center, 710 Wiliamson Rd. Emmett Yonce, (540)992-5331 Lynchburg Coin Club Show September 8, Lynchburg, Va. Scarletts Gallery, 1026 Main St., Downtown Lynchburg. (804)528-0488 Coin Show October 20-21, Salem, Va.

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

American Legion Building, 710 Apperson Dr. Emmett Yonce, (540)992-5331

Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

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FOR SALE: Florida Active Service medal. Awarded 1929-1938. Scarce, original issue. On original ribbon - \$60. Planchet only (frail ribbon) - \$50. Postage extra. Charles Pfeiffer, 1401 Druid Rd., Maitland, FL 32751.

WANTED: VA store tokens from Madison, Culpeper and Orange counties for my personal collection. Please e-mailme (Dave Scott) at janedave @ erols.com, or call 540.547.2675 with price, condition, and description.

WANTED: North Carolina Trade tokens. Please write with description and price. Mike Capen, P.O. Box 1947, Mechanicsville, VA 23116

WANTED: Punch tags. Describe and price. Ginnie Aldridge, 515 Pinehurst Ave., Colonial Heights, VA 23834

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WANTED: Stocks, Bonds & fancy old letterheads you don't know what to do with. Send photocopy or sample for offer. Will answer all requests. Bob Schell, 6804 Jeremiah Ct., Fairfax, VA 22039.

FOR SALE: My list for your SASE. Confederate/ 1862 Va/ WVa. Obsolete/ U.S./ Tokens / MPC / British World / Books. C.D. Damron, Rt. 4, Box 63K, St. Albans, WV 25177, ph. (304)768-6246

WANTED: Contemporary (to the Civil War) counterfeit Confederate notes for my personal collection. Please describe and price. Ned Lea, 8704 Kings Mill Place, Raleigh, NC 27615

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION WANTED on signers of Va. colonial, other colonial, and Continental currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have. David Consolvo, P.O. Box 153, Covesville, VA 22931, (804) 293-4371

DO YOU COLLECT WEB NOTES? or other US currency? Send a Ig. SASE & receive a "FREE" currency price list. Happy Collecting! Barry Ciociola, P.O. Box 71646, Durham, NC 27722-1646

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WANTED: All foreign paper money, scrip & notgeld + US MPC & CSA notes. Daryl C. Spelbring, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183, (703) 938-7267

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

SUMMER, 2001

Inside-



The Mother of All Large Cents

—Red Henry

Why Join a Coin Club?

-Col. Steve Ellsworth

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The best way to sell your collection is to consign it to someone you trust. Your currency collection probably took years to acquire. Each purchase was thoughtfully considered, each note carefully stored, and handled with respect. The sale of your collection should be accomplished in the same manner. Carefully, and thoughtfully.

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All advertising copy must be typed or camera-ready. Send ads in c/o the magazine editor. Make all checks payable to Virginia Numismatic Association. The deadline for all copy is the 20th of the month preceding month of issue (e.g., September 20th for October/Fall issue.) No ads will be accepted from minors without their parents' consent. All ads must have numismatic significance. Unusual copy requirements may be billed extra. If in doubt, write for details.

The Virginia Numismatic Association has on file the names and addresses of its advertisers. Any complaints or requests for information regarding advertisers should be referred to The Virginia Numismatic Association. The right to edit copy, to require payment in advance, and to decline any payment in advance is specifically reserved.

Signed letters to the Editor are invited from VNA members. Please include your name and address. Letters will be printed if space permits.

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 37, No. 3 Summer, 2001

The VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published four times per year. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send in your changes of address.

Article submissions are welcomed. Send mail relating to the magazine to the editor.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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President's Message

Col. Steven K. Ellsworth, VNA President

The enthusiasm for collecting coins and currency continues to accelerate. Last week the Mint released its 2001 Silver Buffalo-Currency package. In less than four days, all 50,000 copies were sold out. Needless to say, the hobby continues to show very positive signs. The State Quarter program continues to spark interest with each new release, among an entire new generation of collectors. Thousands of collectors, who assembled those "blue books with the holes" as kids, have now gotten out of college, gotten a home and family, and have come back into the fold to complete their collections. Many are bringing their children with them into the joys of collecting.

I recently spoke with Jay Johnson, the director of the US mint and he sees the interest surpasses even their optimistic assessments of the numbers of new coin collectors. The mint previously estimated that at the end of the

quarter program there will be five million new collectors!

The good news is that your collection will most likely increase in value as more and more collectors enter the hobby. The bad news is that in ten years, it will be far more costly to "fill in those holes". It may be a good time to get out those books, and fill the holes of the missing coins. You may want or replace the poorer examples now, why they are still affordable. A great place to start is at our Fall Convention, the Virginia Numismatic Association's; 43rd ANNUAL COIN, & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & CONVENTION, September 21-23, 2001.

This will be the fourth year the annual event will be held in the R.J. Ernst Community Center, at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. Dealer setup is planned for 10am on Friday, with early bird passes sold for \$50 for VNA members. Life members receive Early Bird access for life at all VNA sponsored events. The show will open to the public at 3pm on Friday, 10-6 pm on Saturday, and 10-4pm on Sunday. This year's show and convention is shaping up to be the best yet. Mark your calendars early and plan on attending. For bourse information, please contact: Paul Singleton, PO BOX 2056, Centreville, VA 20122.

Dealers from across the US will be setting up tables with millions of dollars worth of collectibles to shop for. We plan on having some great exhibits and

lectures, so plan to attend and share in the fun.

One final note is that this is the last issue for which Red Henry will be editor of our publication. Red has done an outstanding job over the last two years and is to be commended by all. Our hats go off to Red for a job well done. Thank you!

My very best regards,

COL Steven Ellsworth (ret), President, VNA

Editor's Corner

Red Henry

Can You Help?

As I mentioned in my last column, this issue of *The Virginia Numismatist* will be the last that I can produce. Increasing demands of family and business are making it simply impossible for me to continue my commitment as editor.

Last winter, I notified other VNA officers that the magazine would soon need a new editor. Now the time has come, and so far, no volunteer has stepped forward. Can you help? The only basic requirement is the will to do the job. Do you have basic layout skills or the willingness to learn? Can you write a readable sentence and do ordinary copy-editing? Do you have a computer program which will combine text and graphics in this fairly simple magazine format? Can you put in several hours four times per year, in getting the magazine together? Can you write the lead articles yourself when necessary? If you can do these things, then you should consider taking over this job.

The rewards of the editor's job are many. You have the satisfaction of putting the magazine together and seeing it in print. You have the enjoyment of contact with the officers and members of VNA who contribute information and articles to the magazine. If you use computers or layout techniques in your daily work, you have a chance to learn things which will help you every day. And remember that with modern technology the editor's job is much, much easier than it used to be! Your first issue will be due out in October, and will include VNA convention reports.

I'm a comparative newcomer to the VNA organization, but I've met many wonderful people in the process of producing the magazine. I have greatly enjoyed my time as editor, and would have liked to continue in the position indefinitely, but with our family business achieving a record year and with family needs to be attended to, I just can't stay with the editor's job any longer. I regret that these other commitments should interfere, but the editor's job requires a person who can commit to getting the magazine out on time.

If you are interested in the editor's job or if you would like to know more about it, please send a note to me or to Col. Steve Ellsworth as soon as possible. This magazine will soon be without an editor, unless you help!

Yours numismatically,

P.O. Box 2498
Winchester, VA 22604
redhenry@visuallink.com

VNA WELCOMES THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The following persons, who have applied for membership in the Virginia Numismatic Association, will become members 20 days from the mailing of this notice, unless objections are received, in which case the matter will be acted upon by the Board of Directors.

Applicant Sponsor

Chuck, Chesapeake, VA David B. Bauer, Madison, VA S. Ellsworth
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'Chuck' gave only his business card that did not contain his full name. He is 'The Coinmonger'. We hope to publish his last name in the next issue.

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VNA 43rd Annual

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The Virginia

Numismatic Association's

43rd ANNUAL COIN & COLLECTIBLE SHOW & CONVENTION September 21-22-23, 2001.

Ernst Community Center
Northern Virginia Community College
8333 Little River Turnpike (Beltway Exit #52 West)
Annandale, Virginia

Open to the public:

3pm Friday, Sept. 22nd

10am-6pm Saturday, Sept. 23rd

10am-4pm Sunday, Sept. 24th

Dealer setup is planned for 10am on Friday, with early bird passes sold for \$50 for VNA members. Life members receive Early Bird access for life at all VNA sponsored events.

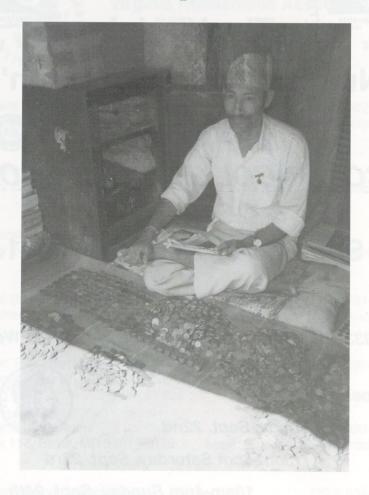


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Old Money for Sale!



This fascinating photo was contributed by John Dixon of Bethesda, Maryland. He describes the picture:

"A typical coin dealer in Kathmandu, Nepal. He sold piles of Bhutanese, Tibetan, and old Nepalese coins, plus many nice old British East India coins and old silver rupees. Without a catalogue I had to buy by the seat of my pants. (Note the safe where the coins were stored at night!)"

Don't you wish you could go through this "general numismatist's" stock?

BUTTERNUT BITES #6: Why Join A Coin Club?

By Col. Steven Ellsworth

So many collectors and dealers I meet feel that "someone" will take care of this or that. Sometimes I even hear, "Why don't they do this" or "They do that?" Well, as I see it, "they" is you and me. If you are an active collector, you need to join a club and participate.

And how do you know if you are an active collector? Well, my definition is that if you either buy or sell a coin or note during a twelve-month period, you are active. If you have met either of these criteria, then you are an active collector and should participate by joining a club.

In my volunteer positions as President of the Virginia Numismatic Association and as Regional Coordinator for the Mid-Atlantic States for our national association, The American Numismatic Association, I have had the opportunity to travel to hundreds of coin clubs and coin shows and talk with thousands of collectors and dealers from around the world. I have learned that most collectors possess three qualities that are somewhat unique to our hobby. First, nearly all are highly intelligent and are far better educated than the average public. Second, all enjoy the lure of the interesting and fascinating mix of art and history through coins and notes. And third, all enjoy the excitement of the hunt for interesting and pleasing pieces to add to their own collections.

So, why join a coin club?

If you are human, and an active collector, you will need contact with other collectors for reinforcement of your collecting interests, goals and habits. I have tried in vain to elicit even a mild response from my dog, "Big Jake" our 225 Lb. English Mastiff, but have so far only been given a polite, but brief sniff to the near perfect example of the 1799 over 8 Draped Bust Large Cent I so delicately held. However, I will say that "Big Jake" showed slightly more interest to the coin than my mother in law.

If you try sharing your joy of collecting with your family, you may find that they may not share your same enthusiasm. Imagine you have just explained how the first few Lincoln cent coins minted show the initials of the coins' designer, Victor D. Brenner, on the reverse side of the coin, and that these were later removed the same year. And how since you were a child you had always wanted one to complete your collection, and that finally, after over 30 years, you have just acquired one, and the response from your family is merely, "How much is it worth?"

Or perhaps you have made the mistake of announcing at your work place that you are a collector of coins or currency. The response is one of curious observation that you are perhaps from a strange planet, pursuing

some sort of weird alien cult. Or worse, your boss thinks that if you have money to spend on such trivia, then you are either overpaid or have had your hand in the till.

As a last resort, you try Wilson, your neighbor. He is smart, intelligent and highly educated and would understand you. Alas, he does. But unfortunately his sixteen-year-old daughter is part of a punk rocker band, whose drummer has a drug problem and who later overhears a conversation that the next-door neighbor has lots or rare and valuable coins that can be easily stolen and sold for big bucks. This presents a very easy way for him to support his drug habit.

In frustration, the lonely collector salts away his beloved collection in his local bank vault. There the collection will be safe, but unfortunately will provide little enjoyment to anyone till the collector has been given the eternal dirt nap. His bereaved widow sells the collection at a fraction of what it is worth, takes the money and buys a ticket to Hawaii to recover from her loss. There she meets "Honolulu Bill", falls in love, and is later swindled out of the remaining money in the estate.

So what is a lonely collector to do?

Your very best solution is to join a coin club. Nowhere can the joys of collecting be more appreciated than at a coin club. Lectures, show and tell, exhibits and small auctions are just a few of the activities most clubs have each and every month. You will find that you are most welcome and soon made to feel that you are not alone out there in that strange world that could be referred to as "The Collector's Zone".

What coin club to join?

I feel that being an active collector in today's world has tremendous opportunities. First, I would recommend joining your local club, the one nearest you that has regular meetings. Plan to attend and participate in at least one meeting each quarter. Second, and most important, you should consider joining our national organization, The American Numismatic Association. Nowhere in the world are the interests of collectors fulfilled more than in the ANA. Each month you will be mailed the award winning magazine, The Numismatist. The great articles encourage most collectors to retain each issue to use as a reference in their own library. And speaking of a Library, the ANA has one of the largest numismatic libraries in the world. The ANA provides many other services for the collector from photo authentication of coins to first class education opportunities for the young and old. Thirdly, join and participate in your state organization. In the mid-Atlantic, where so many people live in one state and work in another, we have the opportunity to belong and participate in more than one state organization. Perhaps you can even put together an exhibit for display at

your State's coin convention. With a little work, you can even exhibit at one of the two annual national ANA conventions. And lastly, if you have a keen interest in a specific series, you can also be part of a specialty club whose members are even more focused and aligned with your interests. A great example is the Early American Coppers Club, devoted to pre-civil war early American copper coins. If you are interested in early copper coins, the EAC is definitely for you.

So yes, I am an active member of many clubs. And yes, I encourage others to join. And yes, I want to improve communication of the ANA and make available the vast resources of the ANA to each and every club and member that asks for them.

Colonel Steven Ellsworth is retired Army Colonel with over 32 years of service who has written extensively on Security for collectors and dealers. He is a full time coin dealer and collector and is the principal in the coin firm "Butternut". He currently serves as the American Numismatic Association's Regional Coordinator for the Mid Atlantic States and is President of the Virginia Numismatic Association. He is a candidate for the Board of Governors of the ANA.

Richmond Coin Club News

With the departure of Lynn and Brian Horn, new officers have been elected to fill the posts of President and Secretary/Treasurer of the Richmond Coin Club.

Mike Capen is the new President.

Jack Hepler is the new Secretary/Treasurer.

Chad Young was reelected as Vice President.

A new position has been established within the club, Club Historian. With the approval of that position, Jim Ruehrmund was nominated and elected as Club Historian.

Respectfully submitted at the behest of Elsie Ruehrmund,

Jack Hepler

Andy Skrabalak

Alynne Skrabalak

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The Mother of All Large Cents: An English Halfpenny of King Charles II

Red Henry

Where did our large cents come from? What was their earliest ancestor? Or, in other words, who in our culture first made copper coins of their size and weight, and why?

Some could say that large cents exist because the U.S. mint made government-authorized copper coinage, at certain legal weights, beginning

in 1793. However, for over a century before that time, copper coins very similar to large cents had been made and used by Englishspeaking people.

The closest ancestor of our early cents was the copper English halfpenny. This denomination provided small change for England and Colonial America, and helped to improve the life of people everywhere. "Small change?" you may ask, "How did that improve anyone's standard of living?"

Well, just consider what life was like before there was plentiful small change. For example, In seventeenth and eighteenth century England, employers frequently lacked the correct change to pay their workmen, so several men's salaries were often paid in one undivided lump sum, using a silver or gold coin. How could those workman split up the money among themselves?

One common way of splitting the money was to proceed to the nearest tavern, and buy each man a drink, or two, or more... so that by the time the men got home, there was





(Enlarged scans)

little left for their families to live on for the next week. In addition, of course, the "head of the household" was in a state conducive to abuse of other family members and to all the social destruction which that implies.

Then, consider the plight of those buying food and clothing with the few silver pieces that did make it back to the home. Most purchases made by the common people involved small sums of money. But since merchants frequently lacked enough low-denomination coins to make exact change for their customers, the customer had a hard choice between accepting being "short-changed" or shopping elsewhere, at another establishment where the same thing would likely happen. The lack of small change was tragic for people who were already at the edge of survival, and had a depressing effect at all levels of commercial life.

For centuries, this situation saw little improvement. The basis of English coinage for several hundred years was the silver penny (a significant amount of money at the time), and since smaller coins were rarely produced, these thin little pennies had to be cut by hand into halfpennies and "fourthings" or farthings, tiny fragments of silver difficult to count and easy to lose. Since any money at all was hard to come by for the common people, they were forced into a barter economy, that is, a situation in which the sharpest traders victimized everyone else.

In seventeenth-century England, the government became responsive for the first time to the crying need for small change. During the reign of King Charles II, two coinage revolutions took place. First, regular milled coinage began, superseding the old hammered coins with the better-struck products of a coin press. Second (and of particular interest to us), in the year 1672 a large issue was begun of copper halfpennies and farthings.

Nothing guite like them had been made in England before.



Halfpenny, 1672



Farthing, 1675

Full-size scans of a halfpenny and a farthing are shown above. Do these coins resemble any that you're familiar with? The sizes of these copper coins are obvious. The thickness and weight of this halfpenny lie between those of our lettered-edge and plain-edge large cents. The farthing weighs just a little more than a VF 1804 half cent. The resemblance is not accidental. These two coins of Charles II are the earliest direct ancestors of our Early American copper coinage.

The English government continued to issue copper halfpennies and farthings. It is not too difficult to build a "family tree" of large cent ancestors by assembling a type set of halfpennies, or at least to find a coin from each sovereign under whom they were made. Halfpennies of Charles II (dated 1672-79) and of William and Mary (dated 1694 only) are scarce now. The easiest halfpennies to find are from the reigns of William III (dated 1695-1701) and George I, II, and III (dated 1717-1807). For a half cent "family tree," farthings from each ruler are usually a bit scarcer, although for Charles II they are comparatively plentiful. I found five of Charles's farthings before I ever saw one of his halfpennies.

Frequently, there was no copper coinage for several years at a time, and no regular English copper was made at all for James II (1685-88) or for Anne (1702-14), aside from a few farthings during the latter's reign. However, to make up for the perennial shortage of small change, a great many enterprising individuals produced imitation or counterfeit halfpennies. This coinage, and

the private Conder tokens of the late 1700s, provide us today with other interesting fields of collecting.

When the United States government was ready to begin copper coinage, there was good reason to make coins resembling those which people already knew and would accept. Our large cents and half cents were the result.

Were our large cents first made in 1793? Yes, but they didn't come from a vacuum. They were the last and greatest representatives in a long history of copper coinage—the money of the people—stretching back to 1672. The copper halfpenny of King Charles II is truly the Mother of All Large Cents.

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VNA MEMBER CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria. For information contact Alynne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets on last Tuesday, at 6:30 pm to eat and 7:30 for meeting and auction, at Aunt Sarah's Pancake House, 1615 Emmet St. N, Charlottesville, Va. For information: Doug Seal P.O. Box 598 Crozet, VA. 22932.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Mar.28-Apr. 1 in Fredericksburg, Va. Club information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

LYNCHBURG COIN CLUB. Meets at 7 pm on 3rd Monday at Scarlett's Gallery, 1026 Main St. (Downtown), Lynchburg, VA. For information contact Ron Waddell, PO Box 840, Forest, VA 24551.

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursday at 6:30 for dinner and 7:30 meeting, Old Country Buffet, 576 Branchlands Blvd., Charlottesville. Information: Monticello Coin Club, 301 East Market St, Charlottesville, VA. 22902.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Tony Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.



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July 14-15, Roanoke, Va. Coin Show Roanoke Civic Center, 710 Wiliamson Rd. Emmett Yonce, (540)992-5331

July 14-15, Greensboro, N.C. Piedmont Triad Regional Coin & Stamp Show American Legion Post #53, 729 Creekridge Road, (336)951-2007

July 15, Trevose, Pa.Coin Show Fire House, 4900 Street Road, (610)983-3614

July 28-29, Burlington, N.C. Heart of Carolina Coin, Stamp, and Money Show Ramada Inn Hotel and Convention Center, I-85, Exit 143

August 3-4, Vienna, Va. Northern Va. Coin Club Show Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, (703)532-6640

September 8, Lynchburg, Va. Lynchburg Coin Club Show Scarletts Gallery, 1026 Main St., Downtown Lynchburg. (804)528-0488

September 21-23, Annandale, Va.

VNA Annual Convention



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October 20-21, Salem, Va. Coin Show American Legion Building, 710 Apperson Dr. Emmett Yonce, (540)992-5331

Show promoters, please send in your show dates and corrections! This information needs to be as up-to-date and complete as possible.

This information is largely compiled from listings in trade periodicals. Collectors, we recommend that you check with show promoters about schedule changes or cancellations before driving long distances.

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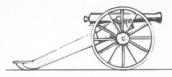
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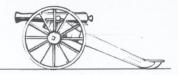
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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

WINTER, 2002



Inside-

Flying Wise: Security in the Skies

Steve Ellsworth

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Signed letters to the Editor are invited from VNA members. Please include your name and address. Letters will be printed if space permits.

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THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 38, No. 1 Winter, 2002

THE VIRGINIA NUMISMATIST, the official publication of the Virginia Numismatic Association, is published four times per year. It is mailed from Hampton, Virginia, at the 3rd Class Rate and cannot be forwarded, so be sure to send in your changes of address.

Article submissions are welcomed. Send mail relating to the magazine to the editor.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Daryl Spelbring, Secretary, P.O. Box 633, Vienna, VA 22183.

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VIRGINIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION Presidents Letter to the Editor

As my term as your associations President draws to an end, it gives me a great sense of satisfaction in being part of a team to help leave the VNA in a little better shape than when we were first sworn in. The great people that I served with were nothing short of "outstanding". Nowhere could you gather a bunch of collectors that could share a genuine enthusiasm of their love for collecting coins and currency and serve as leaders. That dedication continues in service to the Commonwealths collecting association. All of the board and officers have done a great job with their unselfish service to our hobby.

I want to especially thank Red Henry, who took over from Jim Ruehrmund as editor of the magazine. Red deserves a vote of thanks. Red is not off the hook yet as he is assisting Bill Eckberg, our new editor, in getting off to a good start. And speaking of Jim, he still continues to serve in spite of a few setbacks to his mobility. Daryl Spelbring has been absolutely marvelous in bringing out database of members light years ahead from where he found it as your secretary. Claire Wall as Treasure has managed to get our books and finances in order to where we have got the association on solid ground. Clay Everhart, your Vice President, has been another one who always steps up to the plate to help out. And I cannot forget to mention Mike Capen, who I succeeded as your President. He is a great guy, who has helped me avoid many a minefield, and still continues to serve.

I just want to say thank you for allowing me the great opportunity in serving you these past three years as your President.

Speaking of service, after the VNA membership approved a new constitution, all the current officers and directors positions are up for election. It is a great opportunity to meet some great folks from all over the region. Please, as a member, consider running for an office. Just give me a call, and I will be happy to talk with you to help you make a decision to serve. To be elected are; President, Vice President and five directors. You will not regret it, as it will be a most rewarding association.

Our 43rd annual convention was held on September 21-23, 2001 at the, R. J. Ernst Community Center, at the Annandale campus of the Northern Virginia Community College. Dealer setup was from 10am on Friday. The show opened to the public at 3pm on Friday, 10-6 pm on Saturday, and 10-4pm on Sunday. This year's show and convention was a little slower than previous years as it occurred just after the tragedies of 9/11. We made the decision that we should hold the show as planned, which I think was the correct thing to do. We are planning to hold our 44th Annual Convention in the same location, September 13-15th, 2002. Mark your calendars early and plan on attending.

At our annual board meeting held on November 4th, the board approved the location of the VNA's 4th Annual Spring in Virginia Beach. Malcolm Gutterman and The Tidewater club have been working hard to insure its success. This year's two-day event will be held on March 16th and 17th, 2002 at the Pembroke Hall, 4815 Virginia Beach Blvd, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. We will plan to have some great exhibits, an YN Treasure hunt, and some informative lectures, so plan to attend and share in the fun. We will hold it at the same location as two years ago, which was an outstanding show. This years spring show will be the week before the large Baltimore show, so we should have some dealers who just might do our show on the way. Malcolm can be reached at (757) 627-1095 for bourse and show details.

My very best wishes to you and your family for a most happy and joyous holiday.

Your most obedient servant, COL Steven Ellsworth. President VNA

Editor's Corner

Bill Eckberg

Greetings, fellow Virginia Numismatists. It is an honor to have been selected as your new Editor and to follow my good friend Red Henry. First, please join me in thanking Red for his excellent service to the club over the past several years. As for myself, I thank Steve Ellsworth for his excellent service to the club and am looking forward to working with the new President of the VNA.

My own collecting interests are in United States coinage, particularly Half Cents, Silver Comemmoratives, Peace Dollars and Buffalo Nickels. Any of these, alone should be enough to keep me busy on bourse floors and in auctions for many years to come, and I look forward to a long career as a coin collector. I have also been involved in researching Half Cents.

This first issue has been a bit longer in coming than I had hoped. A move, a new job and a series of family crises got me behind schedule. Also, there is a steeper learning curve in putting together an electronically-produced magazine than I had expected, but I am pleased that it is out for you. I have received an excellent article on Liberty Seated coinage for the next issue, but we always need more, and I urge all of you who have even the smallest or simplest story to tell about coins, paper money, exonumia or any related subject to write down what you have and send it to me. If you have email, you can submit anything including pictures directly by email. This actually makes the editor's job easier and saves you time and postage.

In the months to come, I hope many of you will provide me with articles on any aspect of numismatics that you would like. I look forwardto serving you and to hearing from you. Please feel free to contact me any time.

Yours numismatically,

Bill Eckberg P.O. Box 25181 Alexandria, VA 22313

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BUTTERNUT BITES: #7 Flying Wise: Security in the Skies.

(This is the third of five articles on security).

There you are, finally after months or possibly years of preparation, on your way to the airport to fly away to an exciting city that will play host to a major or national coin convention. Perhaps you are a collector who has spent a lifetime putting together a truly remarkable collection of coins that have been in the family for years or a collection that you have worked on since you were a child. You plan to finally shop the "bourse" to add those last few "tough" coins, or perhaps you're traveling to get two of three offers prior to selling your prized collection, in order to pursue other collecting interests. It is possible that you have prepared a coin exhibit that has taken years to assemble, by having carefully and painstakingly purchased only examples of coins that truly represent the exhibits purpose for a serious national competition. Or you may be one of hundreds of coin dealers, who are required to travel with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of coin inventory, more times a year than you want to think about.

In all these scenarios, the individuals involved will have worked countless hours preparing their materials to present them in the most favorable light...yet; few will spend even a fraction of the time spent in preparation of this enormous investment, to address even the basic security aspects to their trip.

Thieves have been successful in stealing coins or jewelry on the way to the airport in cabs and hotel shuttle buses. Thieves have been successful at rental car counters, car pick-up points and car drop-off points. Thieves have been successful at airport curbsides, ticket counters, security checkpoints, inside secure areas, inside airport restrooms, luggage carrousels...and yes, even on board the aircraft.

The fact of the matter is that the moment you leave your home or office, you are vulnerable to theft, and even more so on your return trip. It would be naive for someone to think that by reading this article, you would be impervious to such a crime, but perhaps, just perhaps, it will prevent you from being an easy "mark" or target.

Since I first wrote on security matters over two years ago, I have been sent incident reports of numerous thefts. It concerns me that I continually receive these theft reports that a simple prevention step or procedure I have previously written about could have prevented the crime. I sometimes fear the thieves read my security articles more carefully than do collectors or dealers. Am I doing a service or disservice to numismatic community by writing about security matters?

When a criminal robs a bank they can be assured of five things happening:

- 1. The overall take will be less than \$10,000.
- 2. The money they get will be marked and traceable.
- There will be a picture of the crime, with them in it, and verified by a host of bank tellers and customers.
- 4. The crime will be vigorously investigated by local and Federal law enforcement.
- 5. When caught, the criminal will likely serve time in federal prison.

Whereas; in comparison, if the crime is perpetuated against a coin dealer or collector, the comparison of the five things is quite different:

1. The average coin dealer will travel with a minimum of \$50,000 inventory, and many dealers may have in excess of \$500,000. Collections and exhibits can sometimes be priceless.

- 2. The numismatic inventory will be hard to trace, and is seldom marked or recorded to help convict a criminal.
- 3. There will be no photograph of the crime, and likely not even a witness.
- 4. Not only will law enforcement be reluctant and slow to investigate the crime, but they will seldom have any training in numismatic crimes, and worse, they may even suspect the dealer has overstating the values of the inventory to defraud the insurance carrier. The fact is that most dealers are either not insured or drastically underinsured. Additionally, most law enforcement investigators find it hard to believe the amount of money involved. I do know a few law enforcement officers that are very knowledgeable in assisting helping other law enforcement officers solve a numismatic crime. Two that stand out are Detective Doug Davis in Arlington, Texas and Sheriff John Anderson, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- 5. If the criminal is apprehended, it is usually by the majority of the investigation being conducted by a dealer or collector and their persistence by refusing to be a statistical victim. After countless hours, trips to the jurisdiction of the local court where the crime occurred, wasted trips on defense attorney delay tactics, the criminal will be given a slap on the wrist with little or no jail time.

The age-old adage "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" could never be truer than with security. The easiest way to prevent crime is to avoid it by not giving criminals the opportunity to perpetrate crimes against you.

Security risks can never be eliminated, but risks can be managed to a tolerable level. Vigilance must always be maintained, as security is a constant. Constantly practice "what if" scenarios. You need to discus your security thoughts and ideas with others, especially those whom you travel with. I like most others have made the mistake of telling my wife when she is traveling with me to "watch my coins" while I am in the restroom, getting food or making a phone call. Like any dutiful person would do, she watches my coins without my giving any further instructions to her on what she is to do in the event of a theft! Is she to scream, wrestle with the thief, give chase or simply do as I have instructed her to "watch my coins". If this is the case then her reply after a theft should be... "I watched your coins, while someone stole them". What if the thief is armed? What if there is a distraction? What if there is more than one thief? What if we are in a rental car or in a hotel or airport shuttle van? Without proper instructions as to what she is to do in various theft scenarios, I may well have put her personal safety at risk by asking her to "watch my coins".

Take a few minutes to write out a brief security plan of your own travel for the trip. Be alert and aware of your surroundings. This in itself can be an excellent defense, as criminals avoid vigilant persons. My recommendations and suggestions can be useful to collectors and dealers only if they continually practice and apply them to their own situations.

Security is a personal responsibility. Your security is not the responsibility of the police, politicians or government. They do not have the means or intention to protect every citizen. Unless you are willing to cast your fate and life, to the wind, your first line of security is you.

As a review, most security can be divided, and developed into four parts: *operational* security, *perimeter* security, *external* security and *interior* security.

Operational security would be how you operate or referred to as "your mode of operation" You need to ask yourself; "What kind of target am I presenting?" Perimeter security is considered in the immediate area near the target...you, and your valuables. As an example, while you are traveling, the area that you can physically observe in all four directions would

be considered the perimeter. *External security* is considered the outside shell or walls of your car, taxi, shuttle or airplane. *Internal security* would be inside the aircraft or vehicle, or anywhere you can physically touch your coins. Your objective should be to try to think in ways which you can improve and protect each of these four areas.

Operational Security:

Plan to arrive at the airport with plenty of extra time so you can be meticulous as to your own security. That will ensure you extra time so you are not tense, and lose concentration on your security plan. The extra hour may be the best investment you will ever make if it helps to prevent hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of collectibles from being stolen. After the air tragedies of September 11th, two or three hours may be needed. Again, if possible, travel with a partner. Discuss your security procedures before leaving and not in public. Try to travel with only one checked bag and only one that can be carried on board with you containing your coins. This is difficult for some, but do you really need to take two carry on cases, weighing so much that the Jet-Way hydraulics readjust when you enter? You may not have everything that you would like to take, but you can still take plenty of numismatic materials to have a wonderful convention. While I recommend loading your case as heavy as possible while driving, flying requires a slightly different tactic. Most airline carriers restrict carry on luggage to 50 lbs. So if you are use to loading your case with 80 lbs or 90 lbs. it is possible you could be denied boarding.

Insurance is an excellent idea for both collectors and dealers. The normal costs are approximately 1% a year. For professional collectors and dealers, this cost is a deductible expense. Most policies have a number of restrictions and exceptions including coins left in unattended vehicles. Some homeowners' policies will cover small coin theft, but many have exclusion clauses. Be sure to read your insurance policy carefully, as one policy I reviewed had so many claim restrictions that practically stated that unless the theft was by an armed robber, carrying a gun that you could identify, and were positive the gun was loaded, you were not covered. Some dealers have unfortunately found that anytime coins are left unattended, even at a show, they may not be covered. Also remember that many claims are not paid without legal action against the Insurance Company.

At major coin shows, larger firms sometimes use armored transport for inventories and collections. At some, professional numismatists use US Postal Service (USPS) registered mail or a privately insured carrier to reduce the risk of loss when sending coins. Be sure to keep in mind that the Postal service has a maximum dollar amount for each registered piece of mail of \$25,000. This may require sending multiple packages. Never send valuables via certified mail. There is no recovery process on certified mail should it be lost. If feasible, consider the above options, even if you use these services only occasionally. It may be worth the extra effort and expense to explore the logistics of them.

Perimeter Security:

Organized groups of thieves have been known to operate in many major airports. Los Angeles, Miami, New York and Houston have been reported as having some of the highest airport crime rates. Perhaps part is due to the large volume of people that pass through them on a daily basis.

You need to be especially alert at airport x-ray security checkpoints because of their potential risk to valuables. If possible, let your traveling companion go through the scanner and

wait on the other side to retrieve the carry on luggage. You in turn should wait to go through the checkpoint until after your case has cleared the x-ray machine. Professional thieves like to step in front of you, with enough metal to set the alarm off, while an accomplice will steal your case from either side of the machine. In addition, security personnel running the x-ray scanners have a habit of reversing the conveyer belt when something is not clearly identifiable such as coins or jewelry, giving a thief an easy target by reaching in the entrance opening of the scanner and grabbing your case, while you are on the other side waiting for your bag to appear.

Nearly always, you will be asked what the contents are in your case or to open it for inspection. I have found that the best way to keep your case contents confidential as to what you are carrying, is to present a 3" x 4" card with your business card on one side, with the reverse side up showing the following in large type; "I am a courier carrying rare coins, gold and jewelry—if necessary, I may need to request a private inspection as allowed by FAA regulation number #108.9." Have the card laminated in plastic. Be friendly, but firm. You certainly have the right to ask for a private inspection, but the airline is not required to give you one. Be advised that an airline can refuse passage to anyone, with exception of a FAA Federal Sky Marshall. I would recommend that if you get an inexperienced security inspector, it is best to simply ask for the checkpoint security supervisor (CSS) to help resolve the problem, trying to do so discreetly.

Remember that the x-ray scanner machine cannot tell what the metal is in your carry-on case as it normally shows on the scanner as a large blob. Numerous times I have had security personnel yell out "I need to have someone for a private check of valuables"! Or they may even proceed to spread out your coins in full view of the public at the airport. What your destination city is can be easily obtained by a potential thief, and phoned ahead to his/her accomplices, who will be happy to meet you when you arrive.

Most likely you will be accompanied to a small room or a screened area so the contents of your bag can be inspected. It is most important that you handle your coins to, in and from the private search area. Never let screening personnel transport or handle your numismatic materials. Keep focused on what you remove for inspection to insure that the same is returned to your case and not left out as you exit the private screening area.

Following your private search, while still in the private search location, lock your case, and leave it locked till you arrive at a secure destination. It amazes me how people feel that once they have passed through the airport security checkpoint that somehow they are now safe as thieves have also been detected by some new form of x-ray that has prevented their entry. And do not think that just because you paid that extra fee to relax in a frequent flyer lounge you are safer. Ask yourself "If I were a thief, where would the most valuable attaches and carry on luggage be?" Yes, in the Crown, Red Carpet or Ambassador lounge rooms. Even if you feel the urge to open your bag and review a recent purchase that made your convention so worthwhile, leave it locked till you arrive at a secure location. Should you fail to follow this procedure, you have the potential of bring attention to yourself, that people in the airport will know you have something of extreme value in your case, putting not only your valuables at risk, but also you and your travel companion.

Conservative appearance and actions are a must. Avoid bringing attention to yourself and your mission. This is not the time to get into an argument over trivial matters or delays. A passenger, who is in some sort of "Air Rage" and calls attention to themselves by rudeness, poor manners or lack of civility, is someone to be avoided. Move through the airport being

as discreet as possible. Communicate a sense of self-confidence and purpose, head erect and vigilant.

When I first entered the military service, we use to attach a case by handcuff to the courier carrying classified materials or valuables. Finally some smart mid-level Pentagon bureaucrat realized that if there were ever a bandit or a spy who wanted what we were carrying, they would certainly know who it was that had the "goodies" by looking for the guy with the briefcase handcuffed to his wrist. Not exactly what I would call low-profile travel. Now days, most classified is wrapped in a special paper package and mailed by registered USPS mail.

External Security:

First class travel many be a luxury for most, but if your inventory warrants it, consider paying the extra fare. The pre-boarding, seat selection, and additional space I feel make the trip slightly safer. You should at least check with the gate agent to see if an upgrade is possible for a few frequent flyer miles or a few dollars. The bad news is that those free drinks they serve in first class you will need to avoid. Do not consume alcohol when transporting, carrying or traveling with coins. Avoid it completely. A bandit needs only a tiny edge to gain an advantage. Don't hand them one in a crystal goblet.

When waiting for flights do not sit in a waiting area reading coin magazines or discussing coins. Never fall asleep in or at any public transportation location. Do not travel with expensive luggage, as the bags themselves, even empty, are targets for thieves as they bring strong money on the black market. It may not be fair, or even politically correct, but the older and more out of shape you are, the more likely you're being picked as a potential target. Make it a habit to keep either a hand or foot on your case at all times. That way you at least will not simply walk off and leave your case as numerous dealers have told me has happened.

A cell phone may have become a necessity to some, however, I recommend that you keep it turned off while transporting valuables, as they have become an unnecessary detraction from your primary mission, arriving intact, without loss of life or property. An individual, walking, talking, dialing numbers presents an easy target to thieves. Ask yourself, "Is it really necessary that I risk losing my collection so I can let someone at home know what I had for lunch?" When carrying valuables, it is best to use your cell phone only when it is safe to do so, or in the event of an emergency.

If at all possible, use a restroom, prior to boarding the plane, and immediately upon your arrival. Choose a larger end wall or a handicap stall that will allow a little more room for you and your coin case. Keep the case next to you, away from the door and away from the stall next to you. Cases have been stolen from underneath the door, many times. If you do hang your coat on the back of the closed door, be sure that if a thief reaches over and grabs it, you can live without it, and its contents.

Internal Security:

At all times, keep your coins with you, and never leave them unattended.

Check what type of aircraft you will be traveling before your time of departure. Many small commuter aircraft may require you to gate check your carry-on bag or case. Larger aircraft may allow two carry-on bags, but may count your luggage wheels as a carry-on item.

I know of numerous dealers who were required to rebook on a different flight and routed through another city because of luggage restrictions.

Plan to arrive at the boarding gate early so you will have ample time for seat selection, giving you a better chance to stow your valuable carry-on in the most secure area available. If your case is heavy, it may seem easier booking a seat towards the front, but one to the rear allows you to board the aircraft first, as most flights board from the rear to the front. However, if you do get a seat towards the rear of the aircraft, do not place your coins in an overhead far in front from where you are sitting. When the plane lands, a thief can simply leave with your case, while you are in the rear waiting for the usual herd of passengers, who pile into the aisle, only to crowd the other jam of humanity, waiting to exit to your front. If possible, try to book an aisle seat, placing your case either under the seat in front of you, or in the overhead storage compartment across the aisle from your seat, so you can view it. Do not book "bulkhead" seats, as there is no storage under the seat in front of you. If you are saddled with two bags, place the lighter of the two in the overhead across the aisle from your seat and the heavier one beneath the seat to your front. If you are traveling alone, try to remain in your seat for the duration of the flight, with your coins in a locked case beneath the seat in front of you.

Don't open your case during flight unless necessary. If you must open your bag, pack it so that any coins are not in view when it is opened. Be aware of your surroundings and your fellow travelers. If you must use the restroom, be sure your case is locked prior to leaving your seat. I travel with a small cable lock so on longer or overseas flights. If I must leave my seat, I discreetly attach my case to the floor seat post in front of me with the lock. I have also modified the handles of my case so they are difficult to remove without a "Snap-on Tool Chest" at the thief's disposal.

Never assume that once you get on the plane you have left the bandits behind. One Midwest dealer realized his valuables case had been stolen from an out-of-view overhead before the aircraft had even taken off. Needless to say, the flight crew was adamant that no one had left the plane and that they had no desire to hold up the flight, nor incur the possible liability of searching the planes passengers. The case was never recovered.

After the tragedies of September 11th, the former guidelines for dealing with terrorists have changed. Since you are sitting in an isle seat, with a case under the seat in front of you, loaded with heavy objects you may be in a better position than most passengers to subdue a would be hijacker. Since everything has been screened and the likelihood of guns or bombs being on board is slim, you will have an excellent chance to prevent a potential catastrophe. If the hijacker is armed with a small knife being wood or plastic or anything else, throw anything and everything at him/her and rush them with blankets or pillows for protection. Place the blankets over them and wrestle them down. If your seat cushion can be used as a flotation device with loops to place you arms in, then why not use it as a body shield? If you were lucky enough to have a roll of coins in your case, they would make an ordinary fist feel like a set of brass knuckles. And can you imagine what twenty \$20 Saint Gaudens Gold coins in your sock would do when used as a swinging mace? One thing is for sure, the pilots do not plan to open the door in such an occasion, and so if you are not fortunate to have an undercover FAA Sky-Marshall on your flight, your survival is pretty much up to you.

Make every effort to be at the luggage carousel when you bag first arrives. Thieves watch for bags that make three or four circles on the carousel before snatching it.

Taxi Cabs & Airport Shuttles:

Keep your valuable case in the cab or shuttle with you at your seat. Do not put the case in a rear compartment or trunk as I have observed many professional numismatists doing. Most cabs do not have locking trunks, or the cabbies simply leave the trunk key in the lock. This makes the cabby's life easy but also easy for a bandit as items can be easily removed at stops. While you are traveling in a shuttle, another passenger could remove your coins unintentionally or intentionally. A classic case study is a dealer friend who told me that he had placed a briefcase of valuables in a cab first, and then as he stood on the curb, watched the cab speed off. Fortunately, he was a former college football player and was able to chase the vehicle nine blocks in New York City traffic, catch up to the cab, and discuss the problem physically with the cabby. He latter told me that he was afraid of being sued or reported to police by the cabby, so he ended up hiring the hack to take him to his destination...then tipped him.

Most robberies occur in parking lots, alleys, parks, public transportation centers, financial institutions and retail stores with jewelry or coins. If you are involved in a robbery, statistics report that two-thirds of the criminals will be armed with some sort of weapon. If the robber only wants your money or coins, by all means let the robber or mugger have it. Do not resist, do not scream, but cooperate with the robber. Assume the weapon is real and will be used on you if you do not cooperate. Try instead to get as detailed a description of your assailant as possible. It is difficult to focus during a theft, but make a concentrated effort to note the height, weight, complexion, hairstyle and color, distinguishing features, clothes, shoes, number persons involved and any weapons that you observe, car color, make and model and the big one, the license or tag number. The more complete description you can give the investigator, the better. However, as I have previously written, if you are involved in a hijacking, or carjacking, then your best defensemay be an aggressive offensive.

Always carry a small wad of "throw down" small cash with a \$20 bill on top. Have it available to give to a possible robber or mugger. If accosted, you will have something to give up. A twenty and a few other smaller bills may satisfy most robbers, especially if they are supporting a drug habit. Report the incident to police as soon as possible. If there is a chance of apprehension of the perpetrator, it usually is within the first 30 minutes.

Firearms

If your decision were to carry a weapon of any kind, it should never be taken with you onboard an aircraft. It is a federal offense to carry a weapon aboard an aircraft, or carrying an undeclared weapon inside of checked baggage. The fines and penalties are very stiff. Should you elect to travel with a weapon, it must be declared at check in, in a hard, locked case as one of your checked bags. Federal law no longer requires you to place an external bright orange tag, identifying your luggage as containing a firearm. With the lost luggage problem and theft, most have realized it was a risky requirement. Now, the required procedure is that the hardened weapon container must be unlocked and the weapon unloaded, clear and on safe. The ticket agent will then have you sign and date a tag that states; "I declare, as required by Federal Air Regulation 108.11, that the firearm (s) being checked as baggage is (are) unloaded." This tag will then be placed inside the hard container, and then you will be required to lock the container in front of the ticket agent. After this the locked weapon case will be checked as any other baggage, which you can retrieve at your destination on the luggage carrousel. You are also allowed to place the locked hard container inside another less conspicuous piece of luggage to be checked.

Airlines have conflicting requirements as to travel with ammunition. My advice is to be sure to check thoroughly with the airline to see if it is worth it. If they prohibit you taking ammunition in your checked luggage, it would require you to travel to a gun store, and purchase ammunition for your weapon during your stay. Then you would be required to dispose of the ammunition before your return flight home. Knowing that the odds are far more likely having your bag stolen while hanging your body over an airline ticket counter, oblivious to your valuable case, than being held up by a robber, it makes traveling with a weapon questionable at best.

In addition you must be familiar with the local and state firearm laws of the area you will be arriving. As of this writing, 33 states will issue a "right to carry" firearm permit. In addition, the state of Ohio also has a bill pending for a citizen to have a right to carry a weapon. Some states have reciprocity with other states in recognizing that states concealed carry permit. Some states do not. Well meaning politicians have passed over 20,000 gun laws in the United States that have little, if any effect on the perpetrators of violent crime, but enormous ramifications on the average honest law abiding citizen who wishes to defend themselves. My advice is unless you know and can abide by the laws in your own state, and the laws of the city and state of your destination, do not plan on transporting a weapon in your checked luggage.

Another consideration in transporting a firearm is that some numismatic conventions have written into their contract that dealers are prohibited from taking a firearm on the bourse. However, I am not aware of the public attending a convention from ever being advised that firearms are prohibited. In light of some recent legal cases involving a facility or an organization being held liable for assuming the responsibility for the safety of the attendees by prohibiting a legally licensed person the right to protect themselves, in the future, most organizations will most likely have the clause removed from future contracts.

I really think most people honestly believe that crimes will be perpetrated against someone else. The fallacy with that thinking is that statistically the more years and the more coin conventions you attend, the more likely you will eventually become a victim. If you ask airport police how crimes are committed in airports, most will say, "When people travel, it somehow turns completely sane individuals into complete fools. Stupidity is how most crimes are committed at airports."

This paper is not intended in any way to be a legal or tactical guide. All information is from open non-restricted sources. Your thoughts and ideas are always welcomed. Address them to: Colonel Steven Ellsworth, c/o BUTTERNUT, Post Office Box 498, Clifton, Virginia 20124-0498. E-mail: Butternut.org WebSite: WWW.Butternut.org

Col. Steven Ellsworth is a highly decorated retired Army Colonel with over 32 years of service. Among his many assignments include serving in the Army's elite Special Forces or Green Berets, as a Ranger and as a Pathfinder. He has had assignments as a Physical, Intelligence and Communication Security Inspector. He has received specialized training in anti-terrorist, physical, intelligence and personal protective security. He currently is a full time coin dealer and collector and serves as the American Numismatic Association's Regional Coordinator for the Mid Atlantic States and is President of the Virginia Numismatic Association.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on your accession to the post of Editor of The Virginia Numismatist. It was really good to hear that you were taking up the reins, because I know that you have the literary and personal skills which the editor's job requires, as well as possessing the technical capability needed for modern magazine publishing.

To the rest of the VNA members, I would say that we're lucky to find Bill Eckberg to take over the editor's job, and you can help him and the whole organization. Yes, YOU CAN HELP. Have you been to a coin show lately? Have you made a good "find" or completed a coin series? Did your local club have an especially good meeting this month? Do you have fond memories of how you started collecting? Do you have things you'd like to say to the other VNA members? WRITE IT DOWN and SEND IT IN! Your contribution doesn't have to be long, and it doesn't have to be perfect—that's what editors are for.

I would bet that every member of the VNA, young or old, knows something about coins that other collectors would like to learn. Every member of the VNA has experiences worth sharing, and everyone has opinions on current issues which other members would like to hear. What do you think, after two years' experience, of the Sacagawea dollar? What is your opinion on eliminating the cent from our coinage? What do you think of the new Buffalo dollar commemorative, and the government's decision not to make more in response to demand? How did you like this year's VNA convention, and what changes would you like to see in future conventions? WRITE IT DOWN and SEND IT IN!

We are fortunate in the VNA, to have members with a wealth of knowledge from numismatic experience and research. Thanks to energetic leadership in recent years, our membership rolls are much larger than they were a few years ago. Many VNA members hold positions of scholarship and leadership in specialty numismatic groups. I say to all of you, SHARE IT WITH US! Send in an article—send in a scan of an interesting coin—send in a memory of collecting which you'd like for others to hear. We are interested, and we'd like to read what you have to offer.

When you send in a letter or an article, you're also helping yourself, because you're helping the VNA to become larger and better. You can "sound off" for free in these pages, and make the magazine a more interesting place at the same time. You can start a controversy or engage in one, and everybody will benefit from the free exchange of opinion. You can plant new ideas to see how they grow. You can ask questions for experts to answer. You can give newer collectors the benefit of your collecting experience. You can make this magazine a better place for all, and there are hundreds of you out there. WRITE IT DOWN and SEND IT IN!

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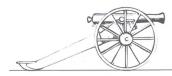
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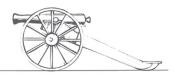
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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

SPRING, 2002



Inside-

Rarity ratings & survivorship: Liberty Seated coinage from the Philadelphia Mint, 1841-1849 Ron Manley

A picture is worth a thousand dollars

John Smith

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Editor's Corner

Bill Eckberg

Greetings, fellow Virginia Numismatists. It is Spring and a man's (and woman's) fancy turns, of course, to coins — did you think I would suggest anything else? First, there is some important business for VNA: the election of officers. There is no President's Message, as the VNA is without a President until after the election. Unfortunately, no ballot was mailed last January, so the VNA is working under the direction of a partial Board of Directors. A ballot is included with this issue. Please vote for the best person for each of the offices in the club. We need YOUR vote! Please fill it out and send it in according to the instructions.

As of this issue, **Col. Steve Ellsworth** has become the Immediate Past President; as such, he remains on the Board of Directors. After this issue, Board of Directors members **Ray Haymaker** and **Stuart Jones** finish their tenure in office. Please join with me in thanking them for their work on behalf of the club.

This issue contains two articles that I hope you will find interesting and useful. **John Smith** has written a basic introduction to coin photography. In it he gives recommendations that can be followed by any numismatist who wants to take quality photographs. Unfortunately, it is my sad duty to report that John passed away after complications from a stem cell transplant shortly after he submitted this article. I am sure I express the heartfelt sympathy of all members of the VNA to his wife, Pam, and I thank her for his article.

The other article concerns the survivorship of silver coins minted during the 1840s. For many years, numismatists have assumed that coins from different dates were subjected to different and unpredictable rates of destruction. This was thought to be largely due to selective melting. Until recently it was impossible to test whether or not this was true. The reason this could not be tested was that there had never been a reasonably random sample of the existing coins that could be examined. What **Ron Manley** did was to track auction appearances on eBay of the Philadelphia Mint silver coins from the 1840s and ask whether they survive in proportion to their mintages. It turns out that eBay is excellent for this purpose. The coins listed come from dealers, collectors, their heirs, metal-dectector hounds and anyone else from all over the world. This results in the coins listed being a truly random sample of what is still out there. To make it understandable by the normal person, Ron has written his article for the non-mathematically-inclined. This is an important study as it shows that what has been found previously for copper half and large cents is also true of early silver issues: the number surviving is proportional to the number originally made, and therefore that there has been little or no selective destruction of dates.

This is your journal, so I urgently need a new article from **YOU!** Please send it by (preferably) email or snail mail to:

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Rarity Ratings & Survivorship: Liberty Seated Coinage from the Philadelphia Mint, 1841-1849

Ron Manley

Which is more available—a circulated 1853 half cent (mintage 129,694) or a circulated 1845 dime (mintage 1,755,000)? If you guessed the dime, you would be wrong. Despite the enormously greater mintage of the dime, there are over three times as many surviving 1853 half cents (see Tables 3b & 4). This is despite the fact that both issues are considered common (R1).

Are extremely low survival rates typical of silver coinages from the 1840s? How much does survival rate vary year to year for dimes, quarters, and other silver denominations from this era? Are outliers predictable? How consistent are literature rarity ratings for different Liberty Seated denominations? These are questions I explore in this article.

Bill Eckberg has recently studied half cents using an eBay database. His findings, published in the EAC journal *Penny-Wise*, have led to improved rarity ratings for individual die varieties and to the first real estimates of half cent survival rates by date and type. To the surprise of some, Bill found that half cents survive in close proportion to their original mintages, with few exceptions. Scarce half cent dates (i.e., 1802 and 1811) survive in greater numbers than expected from their original mintages. I have described similar findings in *Penny-Wise* from my survivorship studies of large cents.

For the current study, I followed eBay appearances of all Liberty Seated issues from the Philadelphia Mint (1841-1849) for four months (Internet auctions ending 8/03/01-12/03/01). At the same time, I monitored eBay appearances of Braided Hair half cents (1849-1857) in order to facilitate quantitative rarity estimates of the silver issues. Great care was taken to avoid relisting coins in my database due to repeated appearances on eBay (a common occurrence).

Table 1. 1841-1849 (P) Liberty Seated survival rates by denomination

Denomination	Observed	Observed /1000 Minted	Relative Survival Rate	Absolute Survival Rate
Half Dimes	248	0.02952	3.4	0.17%
Dimes	179	0.02163	2.5	0.12%
Quarters	60	0.01528	1.8	0.09%
Half Dollars	119	0.00867	1.0	0.05%
Silver Dollars	230	0.25665	29.6	1.5%
Half Cents 1849-57	449	0.82460	95.1	4.7%*

^{*} Estimate by W. R. Eckberg, Penny-Wise, Vol. XXXIV, No. 4, 175, 2000.

It is clear from Table 1 that all 1841-1849 Liberty Seated coinages from the Philadelphia Mint have extremely low survival rates — with the sole exception of the silver dollars. In the late 1840s, the price of silver bullion soared. Silver coins were

suddenly worth more for their precious metal content than their face value. This led to circulating silver issues being melted *en masse*. To dissuade further melts, the Mint reduced the official weights of all Liberty Seated denominations beginning in 1853.

As Table 2 shows, the half dollars from this era contained more than twice the silver of all other Liberty Seated coinages combined. This and the relatively larger yield of silver per coin when compared to the other minor coins readily explains why they have the lowest survival rate of any silver coinage from the 1840s.

Table 2. Silver used in Liberty Seated coinage at the Philadelphia Mint, 1841-1849

Denomination	Silver Used in Coinage (kg)
Half Dimes	11,258
Dimes	22,092
Quarters	26,231
Half Dollars	183,296
Silver Dollars	23,954

Although 1841-1849 silver dollars could have supplied just as much silver as dimes or half dimes to the melts, they have a much higher survival rate. Undoubtedly this was because, as a denomination, silver dollars never circulated widely. Instead, large numbers were stored in banks and forgotten until the 1930s. My data indicate that about 1.5 percent of the original silver dollar coinage from this period survives.

Is survival rate proportional to original mintages of the 1841-1849 silver issues?

Most Philadelphia Mint Liberty Seated dates from the 1840s survive in remarkably close proportion to their original mintages. However, there are notable exceptions. These generally are the lowest mintage dates of each issue. *Clearly, a larger proportion of scarce dates were saved by early collectors.* Outliers (≥140% of expected) are indicated with italics in Table 3 (a-e). I have also provided new rarity estimates for each date based upon eBay appearances. These are compared with published values.

Table 3a. Liberty Seated Half Dimes, 1841-1849 (P)

Mintage	Obs'd	Rel. Survival Rate	Date	Est'd Rarity	Lit. Value*
27,000	4	5.0	1846	R3+	R5
430,000	22	1.7	1844	R2	R3
668,000	24	1.2	1848	R2-	R2
815,000	24	1.0	1842	R2-	R3
1,150,000	25	0.7	1841	R2-	R3
1,165,000	32	0.9	1843	R1+	R2
1,274,000	33	0.9	1847	R1+	R3
1,309,000	38	1.0	1849	R1	R2
1,564,000	46	1.0	1845	R1	R2
8,402,000	248	1.0			

^{*} Al Blythe, The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dimes (1992).

1	Table 3b.	Liberty S	Seated	Dimes,	1841	1-1849 (P)	1
	34.	0		** *	~		

Mintage	Obs'd	Rel. Survival Rate	Date	Est'd Rarity	Lit. Value*
31,300	8	11.8	1846	R3-	R2+
72,500	13	8.3	1844	R2+	R2
245,000	14	2.6	1847	R2+	R2-
451,500	17	1.7	1848	R2	R1
839,000	23	1.3	1849	R2-	R1
1,370,000	23	0.8	1843	R2-	R1
1,622,500	22	0.6	1841	R2-	R1
1,755,000	30	0.8	1845	R1+	R1
1,887,500	29	0.7	1842	R1+	R1
8,274,300	179	1.0			

^{*} Brian Greer, The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Dimes (1992).

Table 3c. Liberty Seated Quarters, 1841-1849 (P)

Mintage	Obs'd	Rel.Survival Rate	Date	Est'd Rarity	Lit. Value*
88,000	4	3.0	1842	R3+	R4
120,000	4	2.2	1841	R3+	R3
146,000	6	2.7	1848	R3	R3+
340,000	7	1.3	1849	R3-	R2
421,200	8	1.2	1844	R3-	R1+
510,000	4	0.5	1846	R3+	R1+
655,600	4	0.4	1843	R3+	R1+
734,000	12	1.1	1847	R2+	R1+
922,000	11	0.8	1845	R2+	R1+
3,926,800	60	1.0			Cont dates

^{*} Larry Briggs, The Comprehensive Encyclopedia of United States Liberty Seated Quarters (1991).

Table 3d. Liberty Seated Half Dollars, 1841-1849 (P)

Obs'd	Rel. Survival Rate	Date	Est'd Rarity	Lit. Value*
5	1.9	1841	R3	R2-
2	0.4	1848	R3+	R1+
4	0.8	1845	R3+	R1+
7	0.7	1847	R3-	R1
8	0.7	1849	R3-	R1
15	1.0	1844	R2+	R1
25	1.4	1842	R2-	R1
12	0.6	1846	R2+	R1
41	1.2	1843	R1	R1
119	1.0			
	5 2 4 7 8 15 25 12 41	5	5 1.9 1841 2 0.4 1848 4 0.8 1845 7 0.7 1847 8 0.7 1849 15 1.0 1844 25 1.4 1842 12 0.6 1846 41 1.2 1843	5

^{*} Randy Wiley & Bill Bugert, The Complete Guide to Liberty Seated Half Dollars (1993).

Table 3e. Liberty Seated Silver Dollars, 1841-1849 (P)

Table 3e.	Libe	rty Seated	Silver Dollars, 1	1841-1849 (P)			
Mintage		Obs'd	Rel. Surviva	al Rate	Date	Est'd Rarity	Lit. Value*
15,000		4	1.0		1848	R3+	[R3+]
20,000		5	1.0		1844	R3	[R3+]
24,500		12	1.9		1845	R2+	[R3+]
62,600		22	1.4		1849	R2-	[R3]
110,600		45	1.6		1846	R1	[R2]
140,750		42	1.2		1847	R1	[R2]
165,100		37	0.9		1843	R1	[R2]
173,000		25	0.6		1841	R2-	[R2]
184,618		38	0.8		1842	R1	[R2]
896,168		230	1.0				000.3

^{*} Weimar W. White, The Liberty Seated Dollar 1840-1873 (1985). Converted from numerical estimates.

The original Sheldon rarity scale unfortunately does not provide us with numerical estimates for R1-R3. Today, most early copper specialists use the "CQR modification" for these rarity ratings instead of the "Breen modification" preferred by most Liberty

Seated researchers. These two variations are contrasted below for R1-R5 (commonrare).

Rarity Rating	Sheldon/Breen 1,250+ est'd	Sheldon/CQR 2,000+ est'd
R2	501 - 1,250 est'd	601 - 2,000 est'd
R3	201 - 501 est'd	201 - 600 est'd
R4	76 - 200 est'd	76 - 200 est'd
R5	31 - 75 est'd	31 - 75 est'd

All rarity ratings in this article employ the Sheldon/Breen scale described above. This permits a direct comparison between rarity estimates for both the half cents in Table 4 and the silver issues in Table 3.

Table 4. Braided Hair Half Cents, 1849-1857 (P)

Mintage	Obs'd	Rel. Survival Rate	Date	Est'd Rarity
35,180	18	0.6	1857	R2
39,812	31	0.9	1850	R1+
39,864	37	1.1	1849	R1
40,430	40	1.2	1856	R1
55,358	54	1.2	1854	R1
56,500	61	1.3	1855	R1
129,694	112	1.0	1853	R1-
147,672	96	0.8	1851	R1-
544,510	449	1.0		

How consistent are published rarity ratings for the 1841-1849 Liberty Seated issues?

Presumably, the authors of modern reference books on Liberty Seated coinage made rarity estimates only of the series they studied. For at least one series, published estimates were heavily based upon those specimens reported by collectors belonging to the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). Such studies have an unfortunate tendency to over-report scarcer issues and to under-report common ones. Collectors also generally collect only the finest coins they can obtain and afford. This also adversely affects the accuracy of such rarity studies.

An R2 dime should be similarly available as an R2 quarter or R2 half dollar. By *simultaneously* determining availabilities of Liberty Seated coinage offered on eBay for *five different denominations*, I have been able to quantitatively assess the accuracy of published rarity estimates.

Liberty Seated half dimes from the Philadelphia Mint in the 1840s are somewhat more available than indicated by Al Blythe's 1992 estimates — at least in the lower grades of preservation. The dimes from this period appear to be slightly scarcer than estimated by Brian Greer. Contrary to the published estimates of Larry Briggs, there appear to be no common dates of Liberty Seated quarters from the Philadelphia Mint in the 1840s. These quarters appear scarce in all grades and dates. Similarly, the half dollars from this period are considerably less available than surmised by Randy Wiley and Bill Bugert in 1993. However, silver dollars from these years appear generally more available than estimated by Weimar White in 1985.

A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Dollars

John Smith

I want to share with you a little of the wisdom I have acquired over the years, first as a collector/buyer and later as a part time seller (on the Internet). I do this in an effort to share with you common mistakes that rob you of a good price as a seller, and undermine the ability for a buyer to buy the coin or bid a reasonable price. I take the title of this article from an old cliché, "a picture is worth a thousand words." Let me explain.

Most people who are selling in Internet auctions and coin magazines present images that are too hard to see. I have taken a magnifying glass to the computer monitor or magazine in an attempt to see a coin; however, in vain. If you are selling common-date, lower-grade coins, small images are acceptable, in most cases. The problems start when you are selling higher-grade coins or semi-key or key date coins. People really need to see the obverse and reverse well to make an intelligent bid.

There are several ways to make good images, depending on your pocketbook and desire for a larger return on your investment. I would like to share some.

- 1. Digital cameras have come of age in the last 2 years and you can get a camera and software that are perfect for coin imaging for \$250-\$1000. The software companies, camera manufacturers, and other dealers will be glad to help solve problems that arise. Practice until you get consistent large images and use the software to perfect them. Remember, we want to see the coin, not the 2X2 holder. It is frustrating to get an image of a little coin with no details and the rest of the picture is filled with a 2X2 holder or black background that takes forever to download. You need to fill the frame with the coin image. Most software packages have a way to adjust Gamma (quality), brightness, contrast, saturation, hue, size, sharpness, slight blurring, and changing image to JPEG format. This format compresses the image to a smaller file size (bits of information) to send to the host without degrading the image.
- 2. Scanners have made large improvements over the last year. I use mine to scan raw coins. Scanners do not work well on slabbed coins, as the surface of the slab is too far off the scanner glass and you will get a blurry image. You must invest in a good scanner with the highest DPI (dots per inch) and also good software to process the images. My coin images are the size of a small saucer. There are good web hosting services on the Net that will store your images for a reasonable length of time and cost and also offer you the option to push a button on the Internet auction and enlarge the coin to your larger size image. I recommend using them. You can also choose to use the Internet auction site

to host your images for the length of the auction. This is a very inexpensive way to get your coins out there to be seen by hundreds of people. You can even add a counter to track your auctions.

3. Web cameras and microscopes with digital camera attachments are positive assets. For the first 2 years of selling, I used a \$40 web camera that most people use to send video e-mail to others. The software allows you to capture a frame and do all the changes needed to get a good image. It is a useful tool for selling slab coins and showing the attributes on the slab. I also purchased a \$50 toy video microscope (Intel QX-3). It is one of the best investments I have ever made. There are many dealers still using them today with great results. There is a growing interest in collecting die varieties. Recently I purchased a stereomicroscope and attached a Kodak microscopic imaging camera to it and get great close up images for die varieties, using magnifications up to 60X.

Why is all this important, you ask? To get to the reason for the title of this article, let me share three stories with you. Recently, Goldberg Coins had an 1858 Flying Eagle Large Letter cent on eBay. In the context of the description, it stated that it was a nice AU but it had been whizzed to a golden luster and was net XF Grade, worthy of a \$75-\$80 bid. What Goldberg did not know was that it had the broken upper wing tip, the die chip between the 8 and the eagle's breast and a little squiggle in the field just to the upper right edge of the last 8. It turned out to be an Early State 1858/7, a rare overdate, and when the auction closed the final buy price was \$550. It was not important that the seller researched every coin, but since the coin was presented correctly, it sold itself. The coin was slabbed and sold 2 weeks ago for \$1000. Last year I won the bid on a VF-30 1858/7 EDS F.E. overdate and paid \$39 with shipping because the dealer got cheap with the small blurry picture and I was the only one to see the possibility of the rare overdate. I also saw an 1870 Indian Head cent in G-6 condition bring \$140 instead of \$25, last month, due to it being a rare MPD-0 in the denticles. Only a few dealers put large images in their auctions and let the pictures sell the coins.

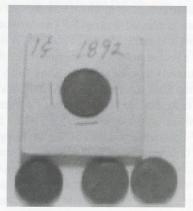
In closing, I stress the importance of creating large images in buying or selling your coins. If a coin is misplaced or stolen in transit, it is easier to prove what you had for insurance purposes, police or the Postal Service. We all have heard the horror stories of buying from the description or photo and getting something different. The saved image you keep with the record of sale is your best defense to recover damages from the seller if problems occur. I hope this will help you in the future.

Mr. Smith was an ANA member, Fly-In Club Virginia State Representative and Secretary, and a member of Warrenton Coin and Stamp Club. He collected for 40 years and sold for the last 4 years via Internet auctions. He passed away shortly after submitting this article.—Ed.

Here are some examples of what John was talking about. I downloaded each of these from eBay. Don't let this happen to you! -Ed.



This was advertised as an 1868 Indean Cent. Can you tell? The picture is large enough, but has too little contrast.



This is is an example of three errors. First, there is too much background to see the coins. Second, it is out of focus. Third, it is too dark. It is supposed to be an Indian Cent and three Lincoln Wheat Cents. Can you be sure?



Here is an example of another common error. The light source was positioned so the cellophane on the flip reflected light back at the camera. Result: the top is too light, and the bottom is too dark. Always take coins out of their flips when photographing them. This photo might have been acceptable if the coin had been removed from the flip.

VNA Ballot

(These nominations were made at 11/01 VNA Board of Directors Meeting)

Please circle choices, then mail to the address below.

President (vote for one)	Clay Everhart
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1st Vice President (vote for one)	Red Henry
A3/	write in
Secretary (YOU?) (We will split the response	write insibilities if we have multiple winners.)
	Free Parking Saturda
Director (vote for two)	Guy Clark
	Hong Liu
	write in
	write in

Ballots will be accepted until July 31, 2002.
Please cut this out and mail TODAY to:

Clay Everhart P.O. Box 2831 Reston, VA 20190 Email: ccdeverh@aol.com

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American Numismatic Association
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Presidential Candidate's Letter to the Editor

HELP WANTED!

Our organization is in dire need and your help is required if this great organization is to remain afloat. For many years Jim Reuhrmund literally did everything (except maybe handling the VNA shows, although he probably helped with that too). And I really mean he did EVERYTHING! All mailings, membership responsibilities, the entire VNA magazine and many more things. Simply put, for a long time Jim *was* VNA. He was a saint, and because he was so good, we were all, myself included, terribly spoiled. But God threw a monkey wrench into the gears...

About four years ago Jim had a stroke. Thank God he survived and, last I heard, he is still doing well today. Shortly before Jim had the stroke, Daryl Spelbring agreed to take over the membership portion of the secretarial duties (and the membership only). But when Jim became ill, it fell upon Daryl to do it all, by himself. Daryl did a fantastic job as Secretary for four years. He built a huge database with over 500 members listed on it. That database contains a LOT of information. Steve handled the shows, the presidency and has written many good articles. Red Henry did a great job of handling the magazine when Jim fell ill. Now Bill Eckberg has taken the magazine over and I'm sure he'll be fine. So, because of the generosity of a few, we were spoiled for another four years.

At the last Board Meeting, Jim nominated me for President of VNA. We asked for more nominations, but there were none. Like most of you, I am a busy person. I work full time, and I collect coins because I like them. My preference is early copper, but I like all bills, notes and coins, U.S. and foreign.

Since it hasn't been done yet, I'm taking it upon myself to type up the ballot that appears in this issue. You can elect anybody you want. But if you elect me for President, there are going to be some changes around here.

First of all, our magazine can only be good if our members contribute to it. We need someone, preferably a dealer, to volunteer to be responsible for putting the upcoming show schedule in the magazine. Find out when Vienna and VNA and Baltimore and the other shows are, write it down and mail it to Bill Eckberg four times a year.

Next, we need articles for our magazine. There have got to be people out there who have already written great stuff about coins over the years. If not, write something tonight. Can't write? Send Bill a photograph of your favorite coin(s) or bill(s) with a brief explanation of why you like it so much. He'd love to print that. If you belong to a local coin organization, send us meeting times and dates, minutes, announcements and photos.

Next, I need two or three people to help out with the secretarial duties since Daryl resigned. Daryl asked us to get someone new over 10 months ago, but being the spoiled people we are, we didn't. Well finally, with good reason, he resigned. So I went over to Daryl's house and got everything, and now I am mailing out this year's dues that were supposed to go out in January. I will do it this time, but I need people to help with the mailing labels and membership in the future. Please write or send an email to me.

And my last request? No more whiners. I don't want to see any more letters to the editor complaining about this or that. If you don't like something, volunteer and do a better job yourself.

So, on page eleven there is a ballot. Fill it out and send it in to the address at the bottom. I don't want to see the usual 10 or 12 ballots come back. If you care about this organization, vote. If you don't like me, call up your buddies, band together, pick someone else and list him/her as a write in candidate and if he or she gets more votes, I promise to volunteer for some of the above responsibilities. But regardless, I want to see lots of ballots in the mail. Show us you care by voting and volunteering.

Thanks to the hard work of a very few people, VNA has been a great organization for many years. If you want me to take the helm, I will. I'll be doing it because I love the VNA and I love collecting coins and notes and bills. I especially love buying coins and because of it I have probably put several coin dealers' kids through college and graduate school. I love talking about coins, showing them to others, writing about them and meeting about them. I've tried to make the stuff I write funny so it will appeal to people. (Yes, that was my girlfriend who threw a \$10,000 coin into a toll booth.) It's the hobby itself I love, and that hobby is dependent upon dealers and collectors, so I try to help both equally in any way I can.

So if you want me, fine. Don't like me? Fine too. But let's get this election out of the way so we can get back to what we do best: collecting, helping the dealers to run profitable shows, having a great magazine, signing up new members and young members. In short, think of this letter as a 911 call. I saw the accident and made the call. Now it's up to you whether you a) answer the call; b) ignore the call; or c) if you live in DC, get lost and don't ask for directions.

It's up to you. Thank you.

Clay Everhart, Secretary and candiate for President of the VNA

Virginia Coin of the Month: Red Uncirculated 1828 Half Cent-13 Star

What is the special connection between this coin and Virginia?



How can it be a Virginia coin, when all Half Cents were coined at Philadelphia? This variety, called Breen 2, is common in Mint State. The reason for this has to do with an event that took place in Alexandria, Virginia, in 1894.

As the story goes (related by Walter Breen in his *Encyclopedia of United States Half Cents, 1793-1857*), an "old Black lady" from Alexandria brought a bag of approximately 1,000 Red Uncirculated examples into the shop of Washington, DC coin dealer, Benjamin H. Collins. Because of this, nearly all the known examples of this variety in high grade probably came from "the Collins hoard", which makes up about 20% of the surviving population of the variety. Collins purchased the coins (at face value, perhaps?) and offered them for 40¢ each in Red Uncirculated.

In December, 1899, John F. Jones examined Collins' stock and noted that only about 50 were left. However, Breen reported seeing a lot of 140 of them in the stock of F.C.C. Boyd in 1955, so Collins may have sold many of them to dealers in larger lots.

The bag contained one other half cent. It was not an 1828 or any other year close to that. Amazingly, it was an 1811. There are two varieties of 1811 half cent; the Breen 1 (wide date) is very scarce, and the Breen 2 (close date) is scarce, but less so. This coin was the Breen 1 variety and was also Uncirculated. There are only about 5 known examples of this date in Uncirculated condition, so the Collins hoard contained about 20% of the surviving Mint State population of both 1828 and 1811 half cents.

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BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets on last Tuesday, at 6:30 pm to eat and 7:30 for meeting and auction, at Aunt Sarah's Pancake House, 1615 Emmet St. N, Charlottesville, Va. For information: Doug Seal P.O. Box 598 Crozet, VA. 22932.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Mar.28-Apr. 1 in Fredericksburg, Va. Club information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

LYNCHBURG COIN CLUB. Meets at 7 pm on 3rd Monday at Scarlett's Gallery, 1026 Main St. (Downtown), Lynchburg, VA. For i nformation contact Ron Waddell, PO Box 840, Forest, VA 24551.

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursday at 6:30 for dinner and 7:30 meeting, Old Country Buffet, 576 Branchlands Blvd., Charlottesville. Information: Monticello Coin Club, 301 East Market St, Charlottesville, VA. 22902.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Tony Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

SUMMER, 2002



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Inside-

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Red Henry

Pocket Calendar for 1809

Thomas Kays

Report on the VNA Show

Clay Everhart

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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

VOLUME 38, No. 3 Summer, 2002

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Article submissions are welcomed. Send mail relating to the magazine to the editor.

Send correspondence about membership, address changes, etc., to Clay Everhart, PO Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190.

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Show Schedule

Virginia Beach, VA, October 12-13
St. Louis, MO (Silver Dollar Show), October 17-19
Greenville, SC, October 25-27
Vienna, VA, November 2-3
Baltimore, MD, November 8-10
C4/Boston, MA, November 14-17
White Plains, NY, November 29-December 1
Lanham, MD, December 5-8
Allentown/Trevose, PA, December 14-15

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BIG JOE'S LITTLE BOX OF COINS

AND THE FRENCH COMET

Red Henry

My grandfather Arthur Joseph Henry was born in 1891 in Lake City, Florida. Known as Joe Henry all his life, he was called "Big Joe" by the family. (This distinguished him from his oldest son and namesake, who was called Joe Baby, then Little Joe, then Doctor Joe.). Big Joe attended the University of Florida, studying accounting, engineering, and law.

As a young man, Big Joe led an active life. He entered the U.S. Army during World War I, and saw service in France and Germany. In the early 1920s, as a member of the Corps of Engineers, he surveyed for railroad lines in the jungles of Central America, and then walked across the State of Florida twice, doing survey work for a cross-Florida barge canal. Finally he left the army and married my grandmother, Evelyn Whitfield, in 1923.

Big Joe and Eve moved around quite a bit early in his working career, but they settled down in the mid-1930s, living with her parents in their spacious old frame house on Calhoun Street in Tallahassee. Built in 1901 with several bedrooms and called (naturally) the Big House, the place had been enlarged over the years. One addition included a bedroom and bath at the rear of the second floor. There Big Joe and Eve lived as they raised their three sons, cared for her parents, and spent the last 30 years of their lives, while Big Joe worked as an accountant for the State of Florida.

The Big House was a large and mysterious place for me to explore when I was small, but nothing there was more fascinating than what I found on a sleeping porch off my grandparents' bedroom. There, in the top drawer of a large old-fashioned dresser, was a small cardboard jewelry-store box which contained dozens of coins. After I began collecting in 1959, my grandmother Eve gave me the wonderful box.

Those coins were small round souvenirs which Big Joe had acquired during his youth and work in many countries. Apparently he just picked up whatever caught his fancy, and the sources of several of them are mysterious. The oldest coin was a small Roman bronze from the early 300s

A.D., the "Constantinople commemorative" (Seaby-3890), with a nice glossy green patina. There were small, nearly-uncirculated copper and bronze pieces from the 1800s, issued by the German states. There were several small coins from Italy, France, and Austria, along with a gold ducat from Holland, dated in the 1770s.

There were farthings or halfpennies from every British monarch beginning with George IV, who came to the throne in 1820, down to George V, who reigned during World War I. There were handsome nickel Cuban pennies in the box, along with small-denomination coins from the Dominican Republic. (These were badly worn, bringing to mind the desperate condition of the people there.) There was a nice silver Mexican dime with a neat rim cud. Among the U.S. coins were three copper-nickel Indianhead pennies, saved as curiosities.

All these coins interested me as a youngster, for I had seen nothing like them. But none of them holds more fascination for me now than three old pieces of copper.

Perhaps the most important coin in the box, by today's standards, was an 1834 small-date cent, Newcomb-1. There is little or no wear on the coin, and it is a semi-glossy medium brown, but on the reverse there was a little residue, easily removed, of some whitish, granular stuff—perhaps the little boys, my father and his brothers, shined the coin up for fun back in the 1930s. I value it none the less for that.



Big Joe's Large Cent 1834 N-1

Another copper item in the box had a story behind it, though I did not learn so for many years. Conder collectors will recognize this 1793 Inverness Halfpenny. The lettered edge on this example reads **PAYABLE AT MACKINTOSH**, **INGLIS**, & **WILSON'S**. I wondered for a long time just why Big Joe had kept this coin. Then, later in my life, I learned that among his Georgia ancestors were a family named Mackintosh, from Inverness-shire, far to the north in the rugged mountains of Scotland. "Our" Mackintoshes came to this country in Revolutionary times. Big Joe

must have felt confident that some distant cousin of his had issued that copper token, although he never talked much to me either about his ancestry or about any of the coins.

Now we come to a case of parallel phenomena. First, let's delve into early American coins for a bit, and discuss the 1807 Sheldon-271, the famous Comet Variety large cent.

The "American Comet," as we may call it, is remarkable for its die break behind Ms. Liberty's head, which looks much like a comet in the sky. (For more details about this variety and how it got its name, see my article *Which Comet was It?* in the January-February 2000 issue of *The Virginia Numismatist.*) At top right is a photo of that distinctive die break. Note how the break extends from Ms. Liberty's hair all the way to the rim at about 10:00, angling down slightly from left to right.

Now we come to a third item from the little box. Slightly larger than a half cent, it's a Half Sol of the French king Louis XV, who had a long and magnificently forgettable reign long ago. The coin's



Inverness Halfpenny, 1793 (obverse)



Inverness Halfpenny, 1793 (reverse)

reverse bears the royal arms along with the date, 1721. The obverse features a bust of the king, his long hair elaborately styled, and the legend



The American Comet, S-271





The French Comet of Louis XIV, 1721

LUDOVICUS XV DEI GRATIA. So far, so good—this was all I noticed about the coin for a long time. But if we pay close attention, we will see a die break on the obverse—and suddenly it is *deja vu*, for we have seen nearly the same die break before.

This die break extends from the king's hair all the way to the rim at about 10:00, angling down slightly from left to right. The position and size of the break resemble the break on our familiar S-271 so much that we could say that this is, indeed, a French Comet!

Time never stands still. Big Joe and Eve both died in the 1960s, and the Big House was torn down. The lot was sold a few years later. Now a huge, modern brick residence stands among my great-grandparents' gardens. But I kept a few things from the house. That little box of coins stayed with me through school and life, even as (in the customary way) I stopped collecting while college and work kept me over-occupied for 25 years. After I began collecting again at age 41, I incautiously sold the gold ducat and a few other items from the box to finance some coin purchases.

Most of Big Joe's coins, however, are still with me, and here they will stay. The little cardboard box is gone now, but the coins rest on a tray all their own in my coin cabinet. There are 39 of them, ranging in size from the little Roman bronze to a big piece of Chinese "cash". Few of the coins have much value in this day and age, but there's at least one exception. I do sometimes wonder what Big Joe himself would say if he could learn of that 1834 cent's market value today. That must be the only item from the box that is worth much now. But sometimes personal importance and market value are a long way apart, and nothing numismatic I own has fascinated me more, or taught me more over the years, than Big Joe's little box of coins.

New Members					
Reinhardt, William Mahood, Ken Pandaleon, Alec Smith, Ronald		Amissville, VA Leesburg, VA Millbrook, NY Quantico, VA	Clay Everhart (sponsor) Jim Ruehrmond (sponsor) J.M. Keeling (sponsor)		

VNA Coin Show – 2002 By Clay Everhart, President, VNA

I went to the show, I bought, and I came home happy with some great new additions to my collection. And I don't know about you, and I know this might sound crazy, but the main reason I go to coin shows is to buy coins (and paper money)! That is the meat and potatoes. The rest is gravy. And there were plenty of Filet Mignon and Idaho Potatoes at this coin show. Okay, I realize we have some members who have retired to Maine, so let's say Idaho *and* Maine Potatoes. Wow, it's hard being politically correct.

I would like to say that this year's show was a total success and that it went off without a hitch. But the truth of the matter is that some of it went very well, and some of it did not. There are several areas that could use improvement, and with your help, we can fix those areas next year. There are always some variables that are somewhat beyond our control – things like parking and the weather.

But some of the areas we can fix include concessions, pre-show mailings, seminars, exhibits, the registration desk, scheduling conflicts and security. So other than that Mrs. Lincoln, how did you enjoy the play? Sorry, that's an old joke. If it didn't make sense, please skip it. Anyway, next year we will try to fix those and all other problems that arose. I'm not trying to pass the buck, but I wasn't President of VNA for 11 of the 12 months preceding the show and I have been a tad busy lately handling little things like membership, dues, billings, membership cards, labels for the magazine and a couple other things that have been thrust upon me over the last four months!

Although we always would like more, the crowds were pretty big and people were buying! At least I noticed a lot of missing coins in the dealer trays. The educational seminars were not advertised well and there were no signs up, so therefore they were not well attended, so that is one area we will need help with next year. Interested? However, there were even some bright points even concerning the talks. Woolsey writes, "I went to the presentation on counterfeit bills, it was very interesting and informative."

Of course, we were all very sad to learn of the recent passing of legendary coin person Dan Koker. He was truly a great numismatist and friend of all collectors and the VNA. But fortunately, along with Paul Singleton, Dan's son Darin has agreed to carry on his Dad's responsibilities as far as managing the show. Any problems the show had were not at all related to the fine work of these three individuals.

And sometimes there are unavoidable reasons for things going wrong -e.g., scheduling conflicts. This year the Lancaster show and a huge nearby Civil War reenactment were on the same weekend as the show. As always, we did the best we

could, but there are a lot of variables like the place we hold the show is often full three out of four weekends in September, over a year in advance!

So, as another President once said, "I did not have..."—oops, wrong President. Well, suffice it to say, if you went to the show, I hope you bought or sold some coins or paper money. But regardless, with your help, we will do a better job next year. And if you *can* help us, please let me know at email: ccdeverh@aol.com, or regular mail, Clay Everhart, P.O. Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190. Thank you.



VNA Past-President, Colonel Steve Ellsworth



VNA President, Clay Everhart

Photos taken by your editor at the VNA Show.

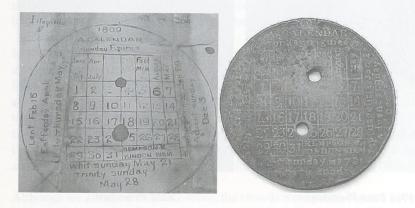
Note from the acting Secretary: The VNA Secretary's computer crashed recently and he is having to re-enter about 3 weeks of information and all recent correspondence into a new computer. So if you sent VNA a check or other correspondence between 7/1 and 9/1/02, please be patient -- things like the mailing of membership cards and the cashing of checks will be slightly delayed. The acting Secretary is doing his best to catch up! Thanks.

The "Acting Secretary" is VNA President, Clay Everhart – Ed.

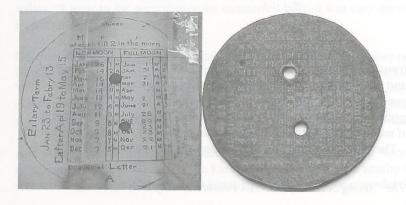
Selected Topics in Old Virginia Numismatics By Thomas Kays

Pocket Calendar for 1809 found in Alexandria

In Alexandria, Virginia many years ago, a local boy, Johnny Ashton, played at the Old Quaker Burial Ground. Located at the intersection of South Washington and Queen Streets, the Old Quaker Burial Ground, since in 1784, preserved a bit of open space irresistible to the town children. Johnny found an old copper token in the soil there that he kept as a lucky piece. Many years later Dr. John Thornton Ashton donated his lucky piece to the Alexandria Library, where it can still be seen, along with Dr Ashton's original, pen and ink rendering of the symbols and words on the odd token.



His 1809 token is 1.5 inches in diameter, weighs 15.7 grams and shows a perpetual calendar of "Sunday Figures" on the obverse.



A chart of the days of the new moon is found on the reverse. This die struck pocket calendar was made by Kempson & Kindon of Birmingham, England. Peter Kempson made tokens, medals and pocket calendars each year from 1795 through 1825 at his "toyman's business at Little Charles Street, Birmingham. He teamed with Kindon between 1802 and 1809 after which his firm became Kempson & Son in 1810.



Pocket calendars were popular "toys" since the reform of the Gregorian calendar in 1750 when New Years Day moved from March 25th to January 1st. In England "toys" were small metal artifacts such as buttons, buckles, seals, charms and tokens. After 1809 when this pocket calendar was no longer of use, it was holed in two spots to make it a colonial American toy called a "buzzer." A loop of string passing through each hole allowed the token to be wound up and then spun between a child's hands as they pulled taught the strings. If spun fast, the token would act as a tiny gyroscope and buzz the strings, to the delight of the child.

Strangely enough, the Alexandria Library at 717 Queen Street was built directly on top of the Old Quaker Burial Ground. The Alexandria Library maintains a fine collection of volumes on local Alexandria history. This toy pocket calendar can be seen today, in the vault with their Special Collections, rooted right about where it was first found, many years ago, by a small boy playing in the graveyard. The spirit of coincidence aside, this seems a most natural and perhaps final, resting place for his lucky piece. References:

Michael Mitchner. 1998. *Jetons, Medalets and Tokens, British Isles Circa 1558 to 1830, Volume 3.* Hawkins Publications. pp 1961 – 1967.

Thanks to the Alexandria Library - Special Collections Department.



Letter from the President:

Welcome Back: The Graying of VNA

By Clay Everhart

Any good U.S. President realizes early in his first term that to accomplish anything, he has to get along with "both sides of the aisle," the Democrats and Republicans – the conservatives and liberals, not to mention the men and women. (Although I must admit, I've been in Virginia for many years, and I'm still waiting to meet my first liberal male.) So rather than Democrats and Republicans, we have dealers and collectors. As were most of our past VNA presidents, I am a collector, not a dealer. But I realize that both collectors and dealers need fair representation in our organization, if for no other reason, one can not survive very well without the other. I have been using eBay online since 1998, and in all that time, so far I have bought only one coin that I really like! The rest have been real clunkers. Other than that, and maybe two or three coins bought from friends over the years, all other coins I own have come from dealers – dealers at shows, retail stores or dealers through the mail.

Nowadays, most U.S. Presidents also seem to have their own theme song. I would like my theme song for the VNA presidency to be "Welcome Back" from the old 1970s television show "Welcome Back Kotter." Although we have gained quite a few members over the past couple years, we have also lost a few too, and to those who have strayed, for whatever reason, I'd like to say: Welcome Back! I would have preferred to use a song titled "Please Come Back," but I don't think there is a song with that name and I don't have time to write one.



"...take a look around the room...we aren't getting any younger folks."

At our last meeting at the August 4th Vienna show, we counted up the 28 ballots, and I received 28 votes for President, Red Henry got the same for 1st VP, and Guy Clark and Hong Liu were also elected Directors. Past VNA President Jim Ruehrmund, whose only fault is having a name that's hard to spell, said we usually get less than ten votes, so I guess we didn't do too badly after all. We had several write-in votes for Secretary, but the only person who got more than one write-in vote, and I have

yet to talk to him about it, was Andrew Skrabalak (there goes another hard name to spell correctly!) So Andy, please let me know if you're interested.

There were several dealers at the meeting so I took the opportunity to ask for any advice they might have. They like the location of the VNA show at NOVA, but we are not married to that site and I'd be happy to hear any other suggestions elsewhere in the state. In the last issue of *The Virginia Numismatist* I asked for less complaining, but suggestions are different and welcome. I was also advised to contact past VNA Presidents and ask them for advice – and I'd love to hear from them, at: ccdeverh@aol.com or P.O. Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190. The dealers also suggested that we put more emphasis on educational seminars, interesting exhibits and attracting young members. And after the meeting, both Daryl Spelbring and Claire Wall echoed those thoughts.

But the main message I have received from literally everyone I spoke with is not quite as easy to explain as are educational seminars and exhibits. Rather, they involve two things: fraternity — and what I call "The Graying of VNA.." In case you haven't noticed, take a look around the room the next time you go to a show — we aren't getting any younger folks. As more and more of us get gray hair, (those of us lucky enough to have any hair that is — I'm only 47 and I could already use a bit more myself), anyway, the older we get, the more we seem to be treating coin collecting as a business, not a hobby. Not just dealers, but collectors too. We don't seem to do things together any more — few people bring their wives to the shows and many of our kids are grown so we don't bring them either. But don't our kids have kids? Bring them. We don't all go out to dinner after the shows anymore either, not even lunch, and it's hard to get people to participate in any type of meeting, formal or informal.

At the Baltimore show earlier this year I was looking at some coins and next to me a father and his young son approached a table with big smiles on their faces and asked if this was the table that had some kind of coin offer for kids. They got a nasty look, and were told: "I don't know anything about that crap." The kids smile turned quickly into a sad frown and I thought he might cry. His Dad didn't look too happy about the situation either. I felt bad about it.

So what is the answer? What can I do, you ask? At least I hope somebody is asking that. Maybe we need to try harder to be a positive force in the numismatic community and elsewhere. Try to attract others to the hobby. I'm a personnel manager at a computer consulting company, and I've tried to interest several of my office-mates in collecting. With most folks I have struck out, but I brought one guy to the last Vienna show, and now he can't wait for the next one. I've been bugging another chap. So far he's all talk and no action, but I'm still trying.

Change is hard, but change we must. Let's all try to be good representatives of the hobby. Remember that **you** might be the only connection some people may ever have to the hobby that we all love so much. It's simple: people can't be introduced to the hobby if they are not introduced to the hobby. Try to remember the thrill you had back in the fifties (okay, sixties? — wrong way? forties?) when you would spread out all of your pocket change on your bed, looking for that 1909-S VDB or that elusive 1955 Doubled Die. And if you have other, better ideas, please share any suggestions you may have. Maybe this year we could all volunteer to do just one thing for the hobby — maybe write an article, or send us a photo of your favorite coin with an accompanying caption for this magazine. Perhaps you could exhibit some of your coins — it's too late for this year's show, but maybe next time or another show. And let's look ahead, not back. If you have, for one reason or another, left our organization, try to let bygones be bygones and give us another try.

Well, enough. Thanks a lot – from one old geezer to another. And welcome back.

Clay Everhart

ccdeverh@aol.com
P.O. Box 2831, Reston, VA 20190

Welcome back, your dreams were your ticket out.
Welcome back, to that same old place that you laughed about.
Well the names have all changed since you hung around.
But those dreams have remained and they've turned around.
Who'd a thought they'd lead ya,
Back here where we need ya.

Yea we teased him a lot but we've got him on the spot.



1797 Half Cent, Cohen 2

This variety is believed to have been struck in 1799, though no half cents dated either 1798 or 1799 were ever made!

DAVID L. FEIGENBAUM

The Virginia Numismatist sadly reports that David Lawrence Feigenbaum, 60, founder of David Lawrfence Rare Coins (DLRC) died May 25 at his home in Virginia Beach after six years with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease). A marine biologist and numismatist, he made a new life as a writer and grandfather after illness paralyzed all but his eyes and smile. He and his wife, Lynn, turned a life sentence into a life of love, writing books, corresponding, raising koi, rooting for the Miami Dolphins and playing with grandchildren. He is survived by his son John, daughter Nancy, Lynn's mother Greta Friedhoff and five grandchildren.

Throughout the struggle to remain healthy and communicate, David had an unflinching faith in the value of life. He defied his diagnosis with the help of an eye-gaze computer and a ventilator. He and his son John, who continues as president of DLRC, founded DLRC Press in 1990. He published several books, including The Complete Guide to Certified Barber Coinage. In 1998 he published Journeys with ALS, the stories of 33 people with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Last year he published *Tales from the Bourse* about his life as a coin dealer. He also wrote storybooks for his grandchildren. He was known as a gregarious businessman and a teller of bad jokes and good stories. He loved foreign movies and boxing matches and poking holes in an argument. Few people crossed his path whom he did not try to advise and help. David was born in Brooklyn in 1941 to Philip and Madeline Feigenbaum (neé Goodfriend), and had an older sister, Carol Gottlieb. After graduating from Stuyvesant High School he earned a bachelor's degree in engineering from Cornell University, where he was an All-Ivy fencer, and a Ph.D. in marine biology from the University of Miami. He was a professor at Old Dominion University before becoming a full-time numismatist in 1979 with the founding of DLRC.

His family request trhat any donations be sent to the Muscular Distrophy Association or any organization that helps ALS patients.

Editor's Corner

Bill Eckberg

Greetings, fellow Virginia Numismatists. As I write this, the VNA Show is a pleasant and very recent memory. It was very nice to see old freinds and spend a few hours shopping on the bourse floor.

This issue contains three articles that I hope you will find interesting. **Red Henry**, former *Virginia Numismatist* editor, reports on an unusual coin he received from his grandfather. **Thomas Kays** reports on an interesting pocket calendar for 1809 that was found in a now abandoned graveyard in Alexandria. Finally, VNA President, **Clay Everhart**, reports on the VNA Show and greets his fellow aging numismatists. Of course, he does NOT mean me!

Thus far, article submissions have been heartening. We already have about half of the material we need for the next issue. However, we still need more and will always need more. The best problem an editor can have is too much good material to publish. This is your journal, so I urgently need a new article from **YOU!** Please send it by (preferably) email or snail mail to:

Bill Eckberg P.O. Box 25181 Alexandria, VA 22313 halfcent@mac.com



1907 High Relief St. Gaudens \$20 Gold Piece

This coin is believed by many to represent
the most beautiful design ever issued by the United States Mint.

VNA MEMBER CLUBS

ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria. For information contact Alynne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194.

BLUE RIDGE COIN CLUB. Meets on last Tuesday, at 6:30 pm to eat and 7:30 for meeting and auction, at Aunt Sarah's Pancake House, 1615 Emmet St. N, Charlottesville, Va. For information: Doug Seal P.O. Box 598 Crozet, VA. 22932.

EARLY AMERICAN COPPERS. Regional meetings held at many major coin shows. Annual convention scheduled for Mar.28-Apr. 1 in Fredericksburg, Va. Club information: Rod Burress, 9743 Leacrest, Cincinnati, OH 45215.

LYNCHBURG COIN CLUB. Meets at 7 pm on 3rd Monday at Scarlett's Gallery, 1026 Main St. (Downtown), Lynchburg, VA. For information contact Ron Waddell, PO Box 840, Forest, VA 24551.

MONTICELLO COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Thursday at 6:30 for dinner and 7:30 meeting, Old Country Buffet, 576 Branchlands Blvd., Charlottesville. Information: Monticello Coin Club, 301 East Market St, Charlottesville, VA. 22902.

PIEDMONT COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays at the Volunteer Fire Dept., Collinsville, Va. For information write to Piedmont Coin Club, P.O. Box 418, Collinsville, VA 24078.

RAPPAHANNOCK AREA COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 3rd Tuesdays in the cafe of Borders Books & Music, Central Park, Fredericksburg, Va. For information contact Harry Frank, 5923 Cascade Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407.

RICHMOND COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 1st Tuesdays at the First Union Bank Bldg., 7 N. 8th St., Richmond, Va. For information contact Lynn Horn, President, 401 Smoketree Cir., Richmond VA 23236, 804-378-0806.

SALEM COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Roanoke Main Library, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, Va. For information contact Emmett Yonce, 2040 Roanoke Rd., Daleville, VA 24083.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:30 pm on 2nd Mondays at the Mary Switzer Bldg., Woodrow Wilson Rehab. Ctr., Fishersville, Va. For information contact Doug Seal, P.O. Box 598, Crozet, VA 22932.

TIDEWATER COIN CLUB. Meets on 2nd Wednesdays at the VFW Hall, 4809 Bartee St., next to Toys-R-Us at Military Circle, Norfolk, Va. For information contact Malcolm Gutterman, P.O. Box 1145, Norfolk, VA 23501.

VIRGINIA PENINSULA COIN CLUB. Meets on 3rd Mondays at 7:30 pm at Sammy and Nick's Steak House, 2718 W. Mercury Blvd., in Hampton. For information write to VPCC, 140 Wellesley Dr., Newport News, VA 23606.

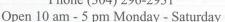
WARRENTON STAMP & COIN CLUB. Meets at 7:00 pm on 2nd Wednesdays at Warrenton Professional Center, 493 Blackwell Rd., Warrenton, Va. For information contact Tony Tripi at (540) 347-9212.

WASHINGTON NUMISMATIC SOCIETY. Meets on 3rd Tuesdays at the Washington Congregational Church, 3526 Mass. Av. NW, Washington, D.C. For information write to Len Harsel, Box 2301, Springfield, VA 22152.



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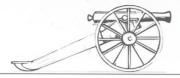
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THE YIRGINIA NUMISMATIST

LATE FALL, 2002

Where Has This Coin Been?





Inside-

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Wilmington Coin Club, Claymont, DE Jan. 17-18

Northern VA Coin Club, Vienna, VA Jan. 25-26

Ohio Coin Expo, Strongsville, OH Feb. 7-9

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Selected Topics in Old Virginia Numismatics

Nine Lives of a Piece-of-Eight

Thomas Kays



Figure 1. Obverse and reverse of an 1803 dated Piece-of-Eight

First, as native *plata* ore, found poor and dirty in a mine in the Spanish Colony of New Spain, a quick-silver, chemical wedding condensed an ounce of the essential element in a lump of slag beneath a poisonous pool of crushed and spent ore.

Secondly, forced by fire to make it bright, and stamped with the face of man in Mexico City in 1803, a piece-of-eight did come to light. With the kingly seal of Charles IIII, and the pillared arms of the Spanish Empire to commend it, this singular coin with treasures more, of similar stamp, traveled the world in flights of fortune, canceling debts wherever they came to rest.

Third, perhaps taken by guarded mule train overland to a Pacific port such as Vera Cruz, this portrait-style, *ocho reales* may have provisioned a shore bound Portuguese sailor in the shops, flop-houses and taverns of the old port. Thence, with a westward wind, by sail with the Spanish Tierra Firma Fleet, this treasure coin moved over the vast Pacific Ocean, to far away Cathay. These eight bits of silver survived all the rigors of wind and weather, storms and seas, and privateers in the uncertain climate of Latin American revolution at the collapse of Napoleon's Empire, to reach South China about ten years into the reign of Jai Ching.

Fourth, during the Opium Wars, good Chinese silver sycees sped overseas to pay for the narcotic, leaving lower fineness, pieces-of-eight as the local specie of choice in the southern coastal provinces of Fukien and KwangTung. Charles III and IV Portrait

Dollars were called "Da Yi" in Chinese, which means "Big Dress"; while the Ferdinand VII Portrait Dollars were called "Hsiao Yi", which means "Small Dress." Premiums on the familiar pieces-of-eight, after a century of commerce in China, sometimes caused them to trade higher than their weight in pure silver. Local forgers, tempted to steal a bit more, crafted base metal copies, replete with local chop marks to make believe they were authenticated by previous bearers. Trusting their chisels, the Chinese at times were forced to chop regal silver with each sale to prove the coins "tael". Chops, small as an "ant's mouth," generally date back before the turn of the 19th century, being thoughtfully sized so as not to hurt the coin. Ink chops and even paper tags glued to the coins, served in times of economic calm to mark, without the need of assay, acceptance at face value. Somewhat more jaded, large chop characters, unconcerned with face saving, were demanded in the turbulent mid-19th century, especially in the southern coastal provinces, to combat a flood of rampant, high quality counterfeits.



Figure 2. Close-up of large Chinese chop marks

This particular 1803 "big dress" dollar shows large chops, that still speak mysteriously of (il sah) "Day 4", (bing_) "Frozen_", (_gye) "_World", (sung) "Chief or Achievement", and (wang) "King." Chop marks serve as commercial code words, often blending two characters into a single thought. Chops may identify the silver shop and their findings of assayed fineness, the secret source of the coin (like writing your bank account number on a wrapper of a roll of pennies), the exchange rate paid, or sometimes a Government figure that denoted tax transactions.

Fifth, perhaps bound up again in a sea chest at a Fukien Counting House, after fifty years in China, now slated for a return voyage with a Dutch trader, leaving at the outset of the turbulent Tong Tze period, this "Da Yi" Dollar, still worth over 1500 cash coins, along with other foreign dollars of similar ilk and chop, departed the China scene altogether.

Sixth, the return voyage is a missing chapter of trade and trade again, as this Spanish

Dollar leapfrogged from ship-to-ship and ship-to-shore. Perhaps it was paid out to the ship's hands at Jamaica or the Windward Islands at voyages end. Perhaps, still bound in a keg with 499 others, it sat behind the counter at a counting house in the Leeward Islands for a year. Perhaps thwarted by the Union blockade it was denied entry to any Confederate port, sitting out the war quietly in a bank in Bermuda. Somehow this piece-of-eight, wound up on an island in the British West Indies, such as Antigua, Barbados, or St. Christopher where Spanish dollars often brought a few per cent premium. A Virginia bound schooner received this chop dollar, taken in payment for local goods, perhaps just after the Civil War. Demonetized in America after the war, foreign coin was good only to return to sea for international commerce. If it stayed ashore, it would soon find a domestic melting pot, transforming a ounce of old "coin silver" into adornments for the properly set table and tea sets of the typical Victorian household.

Seventh, as an unnamed river vessel, of foreign registry, approaches the war ravaged, Port of Alexandria, with its manifest made out in duplicate for the Collector of the Port to inspect, a keg of foreign specie dangled in the muddy water below, suspended from a hidden chain on the underside of the hull. This was an old trick used in chancy foreign ports-of-call that levied high import duties and even higher fines for smuggling. The vessel's captain could swear on a stack of Bibles to the Alexandria Customs House inspector that he had declared every last dollar, "on board." In the shallows, on the Maryland side of the Potomac River, just across from Alexandria's White House, and perhaps visible from the old town docks where the Customs Inspector kept watch, this unnamed vessel may have dragged hull over a submerged object. Perhaps a log or a bit of uncharted wreckage left over from the war stuck out of the river mud unseen. The hidden keg of "duty free" foreign specie split open or perhaps separated entirely from the hull, leaving a cursing and unhappy captain, uncertain of quite where they went down, and unable to retrieve them from such an exposed spot. It would be mighty peculiar for his crew to take a sudden interest in tonging for river mollusks especially downstream from the town docks, where raw sewage and harbor rubbish routinely went over the side. Such activity would quickly draw the attention of every lay-about dockyard hand, and in no time the Harbor Master would be wise to what was up. The poor captain, no doubt, had tides to keep and perhaps a hull to patch. So he left without recovering his old chopped dollars, leaving them to rest as undiscovered and forgotten treasure just off the Maryland side of the Potomac shore.

Eighth, over the years as the chopped dollars lay in the river muck, the largest sewer treatment plant in the area, Blue Plains, was built just upstream, that hourly lets loose the flood gates of its refined product. The dollars slowly stained and corroded black with the effects of effluvia and pollution. About a century after the coins came to rest, slightly scattered about the Potomac River bottom by now, the Woodrow Wilson Bridge was built, with footers sunk by pile drivers, pummeling the dollars around with shocking force from just yards away. Today, the new Wilson Bridge Expansion,

sinking footers alongside the old, dredged up the old river bottom along the bridge span, and in so doing sucked up this old piece-of-eight, along with a half dozen others and many other artifacts. Some of the dredge material was transported by barge to a site in Southern Maryland, off limits to the public. As the dredge material mounted higher, and after a recent thunderstorm dumped about an inch of fresh water on the dredge material, it subsided, revealing thousands of metal and glass artifacts right on the surface. Before the next load of dredge was dumped, purportedly, a high grade, 1845 US Seated Liberty Dollar, at least seven pieces-of-eight, of Mexico, of known dates, 1787, 1795, 1796, 1798, (2) from 1803, an 1807, and perhaps an eighth low grade specimen of Lima Peru, were recovered, along with hundreds of small foreign and domestic coins. A 1739 pillar style, two-bit piece, a colonial copper, Indian Head cents. Buffalo nickels and modern Lincoln pennies were likewise eyeballed by the sludge dumping crews mixed in among all manner of metal and glass objects. All the silver coins came out stained and corroded black, perhaps due to a silver oxide formed from long contact with organic acids, similar in appearance to coins found in old privies. Most of the copper coins were corroded beyond recognition, and then harshly cleaned again, buy their finders, as might be expected. A private delegation of bluecollar men from Maryland produced a small portion of the coins from this treasure, along with the story of its recovery, showing some of the larger coins for identification recently. The glassware and other unknown metal artifacts remained in Maryland they said, disposed of locally.

I saw second hand, several of these pieces-of-eight, begin their ninth life, in the 21st century, now transmuted into objects of old Virginia numismatic interest, as this somewhat fictional treasure story, based in truth, attests. Low grade, chop marked, pieces-of-eight are quite common with thousands of examples regularly unearthed in shipwrecks and in land hoards in China and the Philippines. A few worn Spanish dollars have turned up along the banks of the Potomac River, over the years. They have been found in house foundations of Old Town Alexandria, no doubt wherever sea dogs congregated, partied, and parted company with their booty long ago. After a particularly successful voyage, sailors, in foreign ports, on the short end of shore leave, especially when gold still weighed heavy in their money belts, might sit together on the dockside and disdainfully skip their small foreign change, and perhaps, old chop dollars too, far across the water to watch the local boys dive and fight for them. Whether to evade import duties, to relieve boredom, or perhaps in communion with the young George Washington of legend, who first threw a dollar across the Potomac River, although as legend has it, it was further downstream, nearer his boyhood home, just how this 1803 chopped dollar came to be dredged up from the Potomac River remains a mystery. Yet it still bears the marks of many of its nine lives, yielding clues to its interesting heritage and provenance.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Mr. Myung Kim for his Chinese translation services and to Mr. Steve Tai at www.sycee on line.com for facts from his fabulous website on Chinese Sycee History and Chopmarking of Foreign Silver Coins.

A Little Grecian Formula For a Greying VNA

Darrell Tyler

The following was taken from an email Mr. Tyler sent to VNA President, Clay Everhart. Clay shared it with me, and Darrell gave permission for me to publish it *-ed*.

Good morning Clay

After reading you letter in the recent *The Virginia Numismatist*, I can say I feel your pain. And aches and stiff joints, and my vision and hearing are no longer what they used to be. I am a new member of the VNA, and for what its worth I'm on my last leg of the Thirty-Somethings.

But I also feel for that little kid who got his enthusiasm crushed by narrow-minded dealers. That father and the next dealer that kids goes to (if he goes to *any* more) are going to have to work twice as hard to put that smile back on his face.

In my brief time collecting, I have set forth some "Rules of Thumb" that I go by. Some of them pertain to just what you were talking about in your letter. I would like to share them if I may:

Rules

Establish yourself with and befriend your local coin dealers.

Lets face it, most dealers, I have initially come in contact with, are only concerned with what you want, and how much you are looking to spend. Let them know you are willing to spend if they are knowledgeable, sociable and pleasant people to deal with.

Take a kid to a coin shop.

Preferably the one that you have established a pleasant customer relationship with. Because kids feelings haven't been hardened with time and experience, they are more receptive to knowing when they are welcome or not. Make sure the dealer you introduce them to is kid-friendly.

Then to a show.

Try to incite interest and excitement in young people.

I do this by giving a simple Indian Head penny to kids that drop by the house. They think it's cool, so do I.

You think of something that works for you

Do your homework.

This goes without saying: if you are going to collect, do some reading. So you'll look like you know what you are talking about

Try to incite interest and excitement in mature people.

Don't laugh - it can be done. I do this by performing show-and-tells at work. I'm a Trade Dollar and Indian Head penny collector, so when I get something new in, I bring it to work and show and Tell. This hasn't caused anyone to go out and spend a few hundred putting together a type set. What it has done is cause people to come to me with coin questions (luckily I have been able to answer them), and it shows they are taking notice of the money in thir hands.

Interest begins at home.

Not just with family members but also within your local coin club. If there is a local club:

Become a member

Tell your friends and young people.

Invite them.

And in keeping with the Grecian formula theme - Rinse and repeat.

I know everyone can think of other ways that some technique may or may not work. These rules have worked for me. Lastly, they gotta get bitten by the 'Collector Bug'. Without it, you don't have a collector.





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Bowers, Will	R-1702	Hampton, VA	S. Ellsworth
Merrill, Colleen	R-1703	Fairfax, VA	S. Ellsworth
Tyler, Darrell	R-1704	Richmond, VA	S. Ellsworth
Lamb, Phillip	R-1705	Montreat, NC	S. Ellsworth
Englehardt, Albert	R-1706	Vienna, VA	D. Spelbring
Warren, Pete	R-1707	Williamsburg, VA	S. Ellsworth

Rarity Ratings of Silver Coins From the New Orleans Mint, 1838-1861

Ron Manley

From 1838-1861, Liberty Seated type silver coins were struck not only in Philadelphia but also deep in the South at the mint in New Orleans. Survival rates are generally quite low. In the tables that follow, new rarity ratings for these O-mintmark issues are given. Dates are ordered by relative availability. I estimated rarity using a database formed by monitoring appearances on eBay for four continuous months (Internet auctions ending 11/01/01-3/01/02). Rarity ratings were quantitated by simultaneously following eBay appearances of Braided Hair half cents (a group with well-established survivor populations).

Liberty Seated Half Dimes

Variety 1 — No Stars on Obverse 1837-1838

Date 1838-O	Mintage 70,000	Obs'd 10	Est'd Rarity R3-
Variety 2—Stars on 0	Obverse 1838-1853		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1853-O No Arrows	160,000	2	R3+/R4-
1840-O No Drapery	695,000	4	R3+
1842-0	350,000	10	R3-
1841-O	815,000	11	R2+/R3-
1849-O	140,000	11	R2+/R3-
1840-O Drapery	240,000	12	R2+
1848-O	600,000	15	R2+
1844-0	220,000	17	R2
1852-0	260,000	18	R2
1839-O No Drapery	1,034,039	22	R2-
1850-O	690,000	27	R1+/R2-
1851-O	860,000	29	R1+
Variety 3 — Arrows a	t Date 1853-1855		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1855-O Arrows	600,000	16	R2+
1854-O Arrows	1,560,000	32	R1+
1853-O Arrows	2,260,000	38	R1
Variety 2 Resumed 18	56-1859		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1859-O	560,000	22	R2-
1856-O	1,100,000	32	R1+
1858-O	1,660,000	45	R1
1857-O	1,380,000	47	R1
Variety 4—Legend or	Obverse 1860-1873		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1860-O	1,060,000	24	R2-

The 1838-O half dimes constitute a one-year type from the New Orleans mint (Variety 1, No Stars on Obverse). Despite having a mintage of only 70,000 pieces, this date is not rare. In lower grades, it is readily available.

My database indicates that the 1840-O 'No Drapery' and 1841-O half dimes are less available than expected from their reported mintages. The reason for the relative scarcity of 1841-O half dimes is not known. However, many 1840-O 'No Drapery' half dimes may have been melted at the mint to provide silver for the new 'With Drapery' issues. Walter Breen claimed the addition of drapery was not a design improvement, as alleged, but to provide "respectability".

The scarcest Liberty Seated half dime date from New Orleans is the 1853-0 'No Arrows'. The Act of February 21, 1853 mandated that half dimes, dimes, quarters, and half dollars be struck at a lower weight because, by then, coins were worth more for their silver content than their face value². Arrows were added at the dates of the reduced weight 1853-1855 issues. It is believed that most of the 1853-O 'No Arrows' mintage was not released but was melted at the mint, providing silver for the new 'With Arrows' issues.

I was surprised to discover that reduced weight Variety 3 half dimes (1853-1855) have essentially the same overall survival rate as earlier Variety 2 dates (1839-1853). The 1856-1859 issues (Variety 2 resumed) have a common, but distinctly higher survival rate, as expected. A trend for higher survival rates of 1856-1859 issues for other Liberty Seated denominations from the New Orleans mint was also found.

Like the 1838-O half dimes, the 1838-O dimes constitute a one-year type from the New Orleans mint (Variety 1, No Stars on Obverse). However, 1838-O dimes are common. In fact, 1838-O is easily the most available Liberty Seated dime date from the New Orleans mint.

Just as 1840-O 'No Drapery' half dimes are scarcer than expected from their reported mintage, so too are 1840-O 'No Drapery' dimes. Again, I suspect that much of this mintage was not released, but was melted at the mint to supply silver for new issues with the revised design.

With few exceptions, O-mintmark dimes survive approximately in proportion to their reported mintages, when analyzed by design group. The scarcest dimes from the New Orleans mint are those dated 1860. Only 40,000 pieces were struck. Even low-grade specimens bring high prices. This is due both to its low mintage and because it represents a one-year type from the early New Orleans mint (Variety 4, Legend on Obverse).

¹ Walter Breen, Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins (1988), pp. 286-7. ² R.S. Yeoman, A Guide Book of United States Coins, 55th ed., edited by Kenneth Bressett (2002), p. 119.

Liberty Seated Dimes

	on Obverse 1837-1838	3	
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1838-O	406,034	63	R1
Variety 2—Stars on 0	Obverse 1838-1853		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1843-O	150,000	8	R3
1840-O No Drapery	1,175,000	9	R3-
1850-O	510,000	9	R3-
1845-O	230,000	11	R2+/R3-
1851-O	400,000	11	R2+/R3-
1852-O	430,000	15	R2+
1849-O	300,000	19	R2
1839-O No Drapery	1,323,000	20	R2
1842-0	2,020,000	29	R1+
1841-O	2,007,500	41	R1
Variety 3 — Arrows a	Date 1853-1855		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1853-O Arrows	1,100,000	14	R2+
1854-O Arrows	1,770,000	19	R2
Variety 2 Resumed 18	56-1860		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1858-O	290,000	15	R2+
1859-O	480,000	17	R2
1856-O	1,180,000	27	R1+/R2-
1857-O	1,540,000	33	R1+
Variety 4—Legend or	Obverse 1860-1873		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1860-O	40,000	2	R3+/R4-

O-mintmark quarters survive only in rough approximation to their reported mintages. This is presumed to be mainly the result of generally small mintages (compared to half dimes, dimes, and half dollars) combined with an overall survival rate of well below one percent. Few, if any, dates can be considered truly common.

Only 16,000 1849-O quarters were struck. This date is the least available quarter from the New Orleans mint and it is truly rare. Expect to spend at least a few hundred dollars for any specimen you luck upon. Two other quarter dates with low mintages are 1851-O (88,000 pieces) and 1852-O (96,000 pieces). Despite the fact that 1852-O has a slightly higher reported mintage, it is less available than 1851-O. As a result, higher values are listed for 1852-O in standard price guides. Surprisingly, I found that 1847-O quarters were similarly scarce, despite its higher mintage of 368,000 pieces. This might be a good date to buy cheap while you still can! Another date that appears to be bargain priced right now is the 1855-O, with a mintage of only 176,000 quarters. On the other hand, 1840-O 'Drapery' quarters are more available than expected from their reported mintage of 43,000 pieces.

Liberty Seated Quarters

Variety 1 - No Motto Above Eagle 1838-1853

.

Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1849-O	16,000	1	R5
1852-O	96,000	2	R3+/R4-
1847-O	368,000	3	R3+
1851-O	88,000	4	R3+
1850-O	396,000	6	R3+
1840-O Drapery	43,000	8	R3
1842-O	769,000	13	R2+
1843-0	968,000	14	R2+
1841-O	452,000	17	R2
1844-O	740,000	21	R2-
1840-O No Drapery	382,200	30	R1+
Variety 2—Arrows a	t Date, Rays Around	Eagle 1853 Only	
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1853-O Arrows	1,332,000	24	R2-
Variety 3 — Arrows at	t Date, No Rays 1854-	1855	
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1855-O Arrows	176,000	4	R3+
1854-O Arrows	1,484,000	24	R2-

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Variety 1 F	Resumed 1	856-1	865
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Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1858-O	520,000	7	R3
1860-O	388,000	7	R3
1859-O	260,000	16	R2+
1856-O	968,000	23	R2-
1857-O	1,180,000	24	R2-

Half dollars have the lowest overall survival rate of any Liberty Seated denomination from the New Orleans mint. Fortunately, most dates had mintages in the millions. Many half dollar dates are extremely common today, including essentially all those struck in New Orleans after 1852. However, 1852-O half dollars are a different story. Only 144,000 specimens were coined. Its very low survival rate makes 1852-O the rarest O-mintmark half dollar attainable by a typical collector. (A few 1853-0 'No Arrows' halves exist but any specimen is valued at six figures).

All 1856-1861 half dollars from the New Orleans mint (Variety 1 design resumed) survive in close proportion to their reported mintages — except for 1861. No other Liberty Seated denomination was struck at New Orleans bearing this date. It appears from my survivor database that only about 1.4 million 1861-O half dollars entered circulation. In other words, about 1.1 million of them may have been melted in 1861. According to Walter Breen, the New Orleans mint, under rebel control, struck 1,240,000 half dollars for the State of Louisiana in March and 962,633 half dollars for the Confederacy in April. The mint closed soon thereafter on April 30, 1861. Breen wrote that "uncoined gold and silver bullion was placed aboard the rebel

transport *Star of the West*". Could either the March or April half dollar coinage also have left the mint this way, only to have been melted down to further the Confederacy's war efforts?

Liberty Seated Half Dollars

Variety 1 - No N	Notto Above Eagle 1839-18	53	
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1852-0	144,000	1	R5
1851-O	402,000	3	R3+
1842-0	957,000	9	R3-
1849-0	2,310,000	13	R2+
1841-0	310,000	14	R2+
1840-O	855,100	17	R2
1850-O	2,456,000	19	R2
1846-O	2,304,000	22	R2-
1845-O	2,094,000	23	R2-
1848-O	3,180,000	24	R2-
1844-0	2,005,000	26	R2-
1847-O	2,584,000	31	R1+

Variety 2—Arrows	at Date, Rays Around E	agle 1853 Only	
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1853-O Arrows	1,328,000	65	R1

variety 3—Arrows	at Date, No Hays 1854-	1855	
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1855-O Arrows	3,688,000	115	R1-
1854-O Arrows	5,240,000	174	R1-

Variety 1 Design	Resumed 1856-1866		
Date	Mintage	Obs'd	Est'd Rarity
1857-O	818,000	21	R2-
1861-O	2,532,633	38	R1
1860-O	1,290,000	45	R1
1856-O	2,658,000	81	R1-
1859-O	2,834,000	85	R1-
1858-O	7 294 000	197	R1_

Liberty Seated Silver Dollars

Herald	dic Eagle	1840-1873
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Tieraidic Lagic 10-10/10					
Date	Mintage	Obs'd		Est'd Rarity	
1850-O	40,000	13		R2+	
1846-O	59,000	22		R2-	
1859-O	360,000	48		R1	
1860-O	515,000	72		R1-	

Silver dollars were struck at the New Orleans mint only for four years. About 1.5% of the original total survives. Despite low mintages, no date can be considered particularly scarce. Still, prices of O-mintmark dollars are relatively high, as are all Liberty Seated silver dollars. Almost half the survivors are 1860-O specimens.²

 $^{^3}$ Walter Breen, *Walter Breen's Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins* (1988), pp. 400-401. 2 In this article, I have used the Sheldon rarity scale: R1 = 1,250+ estimated (common), R2 = 501-1,250 (uncommon), R3 = 201-500 (scarce), R4 = 76-200 (very scarce), R5 = 31-75 (rare).



Letter from the President

By Clay Everhart

I will be sending out the membership dues letter over the next two months, so please, respond as soon as you can. I recently received a letter from someone volunteering to help me, so I plan to contact that person soon too. But since we have a little breather in-between shows, and since there is not a lot of news to report right now, let me share a story with you that I also shared with my EAC friends this month.

As it happens, I sold my sole example of a 1798/S153 large cent about three years ago. I've sold a few coins over the years that I really regret selling, and that S153 was one of them. Jim Long had given me a really good deal on it a couple years earlier, and it was a real beauty. It was a little burnished or waxed or something, but that does not bother me; in fact I often like coins like that. Someone once told me that author William Sheldon (*Penny Whimsy*) waxed a number of his coins, and I've owned some of his coins that do appear waxed or finished, but I can't say he did it for sure. Anyway, the S153 was still an awesome coin and I sold it to a different dealer for a fair price — and five months later I saw it at another (non EAC) dealer's table, re-colored, for four times the price I got, but that's another story.

So, I have been looking for another S153 ever since, kicking myself for letting the above coin go. When I went to the Baltimore Show in November of this year, I could only stay there for a short time, so I was happily surprised to see a **very** nice S153

displayed in coin dealer Chris McCawley's case. I took a close look at it – it was a super coin. It was problem free, with great surfaces and lots of detail. So I asked Chris for a price, and he said "four and a half." Well, I wasn't sure if he meant \$450 or \$4500, since to me, in the slightly dark showroom, the coin looked almost choice – and I thought it could be graded anywhere between F12 and VF-30, and an AV VF35 S153 is 4K in the CQR.

But another EAC'er was sitting beside me and I didn't want to look like a complete dolt and ask Chris if he meant \$450 or \$4500. Besides, I should know



Clay's "new" S153

this – first hair style draped bust large cents are my specialty. Specialty? They are my love, my joy and my obsession – all rolled up into one. So I did what any other self-respecting buyer does in this type of situation, I stalled. While stalling, I recalled that about 20 minutes earlier, I had seen an S101 at another table that I liked, but I still needed to look at a CQR to help make a decision. So while stalling, I asked Chris if I could borrow his CQR – the copper price guide. He gave me one and as I was looking through it he must have thought I was looking up the S153 because he said "okay, I'll give it to your for \$435.

Voila! After that answer I finally knew that he must have originally meant \$450, not four and a half grand! I was elated! I bought it, but there's more to the story. Chris told me that he seemed to recall that Denis Loring once owned the coin, so the next day I contacted Denis and at once he recalled the coin and gave me its pedigree. ExJackson Storm 8-1-84, Del Bland, Denis, Bob Matthews 5/89 Sale Lot 309, and then it was sold to Rod Burress. So I looked it up in the Matthews Sale catalog and guess what? My new \$153 was graded VG8! VG8? It's a super coin and I thought, at the very least, it's an F12!

Well, all I know is I now have a great coin and I'm happy to have it at any price and I'm NEVER going to sell it even if I get a nicer example, so if I ever offer it to you, please refuse. Oh yes, I forgot to mention something. When I bought the coin from Chris I gave him \$450 instead of the \$435 he had last quoted me. When he realized this he seemed happy to get the extra 15 bucks. But little did he know; he had just saved me four thousand dollars. Go figure.

Mrs. Della Jordan Haymaker

The Virginia Numismatist mourns the passing of Mrs. Haymaker on October 24, 2002. She was a lifetime member of the VNA, and her husband, Raymond has served as the VNA's president and a board member. They where supporters of VNA for many years. She was loved by all, working the registration desk at all the conventions. In addition to her husband, she is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, two grandsons and four greatgrandchildren.

Editor's Corner

Bill Eckberg

Greetings, fellow Virginia Numismatists. As 2002 comes to a close, I hope the year has been happy, healthy and productive for you and that you continue to find pleasure in numismatics as I do. I managed to fill a few holes in my Half Cent and PeaceDollar collections in 2002. I hope you filled some holes in your collections, as well. The stock market is still in the toilet, but the King Farouk 1933 \$20 gold piece sold for over \$7 M, and even a generit St. Gaudens is worth over \$350. I enjoyed looking at the pictures and reading about the Farouk coin in the papers. If one of you reading this now owns the coin, you have my congratulations (and the VNA can always use a small donation).

This issue of *The Virginia Numismatist* contains three articles that I hope you will find enjoyable. **Thomas Kays** provides a very interesting saga about the possible journeys of an 1803 Spanish Milled Dollar that spends time in the Orient and eventually ends up at the bottom of the Potomac River. **Ron Manley** presents a follow-up to his piece from a couple of issues ago on the survivorship of Liberty Seated silver coins. This one focuses on the issues from the New Orleans Mint and greatly extends his findings. Finally, VNA President **Clay Everhart's** letter to aging numismatists in the last issue elicited an excellent reply from **Darrell Tyler**. Darrell provides some "Grecian Formula" for the grey hairs on Virginia numismatists.

The small backlog of articles I was so thrilled about in the last issue is now gone, so I am once again asking you to write. You can't rely on Thomas Kays and Ron Manley to fill your journal with interesting stuff. This is your club and your journal, so I urgently need a new article from **YOU!** What do your collect and why? Do you have any coins that particularly interest you or that you are particularly proud of? Have you been to a coin show lately? Are there people in numismatics that you would like to praise? Many coins have stories to tell (see the Kays article for a good example). You don't have to have been an "A" student in creative writing or in anything else. I am happy to publish pretty much anything you submit as long as it pertains to numismatics (including exonumia) and it isn't illegal or too commercial. Please send it (preferably) by email or snail mail to the address below.

Have a great 2003!

Bill Eckberg
P.O. Box 25181
Alexandria, VA 22313
halfcent@mac.com

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ALEXANDRIA COIN CLUB. Meets at 8:00 pm on 3rd Wednesdays at the Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria. For information contact Alynne Skrabalak, P.O. Box 5234, Woodbridge, VA 22194.

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